

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

**No. 1 USC
has to rally
to top Stanford**

Back page

Southern Cal
Billings
Raggett Bush

**'Jeopardy!' creator
a fan of show
champion Jennings**

Page 18

Merv Griffin

**Monument to
honor 1st AD's
fallen from OIF1**

Page 4

Volume 2, No. 170 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2004

U.S., Iraqi officials: Jan. election may be limited

Violence may curtail vote in some areas, says Abizaid Page 3

Florida dealt another blow

Page 8

A houseboat lies partially submerged behind a boat owner checking his boat as Hurricane Jeanne battered a yacht basin Sunday in Titusville, Fla. Jeanne became the fourth hurricane to pummel Florida in a single season, blasting ashore with drenching rains and 120 mph winds.

AP

Remember to
thank your
Command
for today's
copy of Stars
and Stripes.



Your Stars and Stripes is
now printed and
delivered locally from
Kuwait, Iraq, and Qatar
giving you up-to-date
daily news, sports and
entertainment.

Without the assistance
of local commands,
your friends and fellow
soldiers would be
isolated without news
from home.

Contact
Stars and Stripes
circulation with
questions about
delivery at
49-6155-601-455
DSN: 349-8455

To contact a reporter
in the field, email
iraq@mail.estripes.osd.mil

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Koresh's Camaro sells low: The market for infamous cars took a hit Saturday when the souped-up 1968 Chevrolet Camaro owned by Branch Davidian leader David Koresh sold at auction here for \$37,000, well below the \$80,000 the seller hoped the car would bring.

Donald Feldpausch, 64, of San Antonio bought the two-door hardtop on impulse. He hadn't even run a hand over the newly painted black exterior — much less looked under the hood where Koresh had engraved "DAVIDES 427 GO GOD" on the 427 cubic-inch engine — before he joined the bidding.

The 500-horsepower Camaro — rebuilt by Koresh — was parked at the Davidian compound near Waco during a 51-day siege by federal agents in 1993. Koresh and nearly 80 followers died as the complex burned to the ground.

War on terrorism

Afghan prison torture: Three Americans convicted last week of torturing Afghan citizens — including a New York cameraman — have been moved to another Afghan prison in an effort to better protect them, defense lawyers told The Fayetteville Observer.

Robert Fogelneist, the lawyer for cameraman Ed Caraballo, said that the day before he left Afghanistan, Caraballo and Fayetteville resident Bill Bennett were living in a filthy, 6-by-8-foot cell with four suspected al-Qaida terrorists.

Caraballo, Bennett and Jonathan Keith Idema, a former Special Forces soldier from Fayetteville, were moved to a prison that has better security but is even more squalid, he said.

World

Japan, N. Korea hostage talks: Talks aimed at resolving a dispute over Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea decades ago ended Sunday with no progress, Japanese officials said.

Japan had hoped to get more information about 10 missing Japanese who were kidnapped in the 1970s and 1980s, apparently

to train North Korean agents in Japanese language and culture.

Shinzo Abe, secretary general of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, said Japan would consider economic sanctions against North Korea if it did not take a "more sincere approach" toward the abduction issue, the Kyodo news agency said.

Japanese public broadcaster NHK quoted North Korean envoy Song Il Ho as saying the two sides exchanged views on the missing people and planned to cooperate in further discussions.

Afghan violence: A roadside bomb exploded near a pickup truck carrying paramilitary troops in this Pakistani tribal town near the Afghan border Sunday, injuring two soldiers, officials said.

The bomb went off as the troops were patrolling in Rustam Bazaar in Wana, the main town in South Waziristan.

An official at the army spokesman's office who asked not to be identified said two soldiers were slightly injured in the explosion. Their vehicle was damaged.

The attack came despite moves to ease tensions in the region. On Saturday, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz announced that the government would lift economic sanctions imposed against tribesmen for their failure



Driver's licenses veto: Religious leaders join activists angered by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's veto this week of a bill to allow undocumented immigrants to drive legally, during a protest on Friday in downtown Los Angeles. In the foreground are, second from left, Executive Director of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles Angelica Salas, Our Lady of Angels' Father Arnold Abelardo, with megaphone, Gloria Saucedo of the Hermandad Mexicana, second from right, and Church of Epiphany Father Will Wauters, far right.

to help track down foreign militants.

Munich's Oktoberfest: Cold, rainy weather has failed to dampen spirits at Munich's Oktoberfest, with the numbers of visitors up from last year at the halfway point of the world's biggest beer-drinking festival, organizers said Sunday.

Around 3.1 million visitors streamed to the beer tents at Munich's sprawling Theresienfest festival grounds during the event's first week — 100,000 more than in the same period last year, director Gabriele Weisshaupt told reporters. Between them, they downed 4.86 million pils of beer.

Munich Mayor Christian Ude said visitors appeared happier to spend money as Germany's economy recovers from three years of stagnation.

Somalia peace talks: A warlord who was the last major holdout in peace talks aimed at ending Somalia's 13-year-old civil war has stopped fighting in southern Somalia and asked to join the negotiations, a senior Kenyan government official said Sunday.

Mohamed Siad Hersi, better known as General Morgan, crossed into Kenya's eastern Garissa district Saturday and asked Kenyan authorities to allow him to rejoin peace talks in the capital, Nairobi, said Joseph Nyagah, Kenya's assistant general cooperation minister.

Morgan walked out of the talks in March over a dispute regarding a transitional charter for Somalia.

Pinocchet investigation: A Chilean judge questioned Gen. Augusto Pinochet on Saturday about the disappearance of leftist political opponents during his 1973-90 dictatorship, but cut the interrogation short because of the former leader's poor health.

Judge Juan Guzman, who indicted Pinochet in 2001 in a different human rights case that was blocked by Chile's Supreme Court, said he ended the session after about 30 minutes — instead of the planned one hour, and asked only six questions.

Guzman said he will have Pinochet examined by doctors before deciding on the next step in the legal process, which centers in the so-called "Operation Condor," a joint plan developed in the 1970s by the dictatorships then ruling several South American nations to suppress dissent.

North Korea missiles: A high North Korea official dismissed reports his govern-

ment was preparing to test fire a long-range missile as "conjecture, rumor and speculation," Japanese news media said.

Japan said Thursday that it had intelligence North Korea might be preparing to test a missile capable of reaching almost anywhere in Japan, and its diplomats expressed concern to North Korean officials at meetings in New York and Beijing, the Chinese capital.

Choe Su Hoon, North Korea's vice foreign minister, told Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi at a reception during the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York that the reports were groundless, the newspaper Asahi and other Japanese media reported Saturday.



Women read copies of a pocket guide, "Know Your Rights and Responsibilities," published by The Muslim Council of Britain, at its launch in London on Saturday.

British Muslim rights: A Muslim group published a guide Saturday informing British Muslims about their rights and responsibilities — and urging them to report any suspected terrorist activity.

The Muslim Council of Britain said it was issuing the leaflet to combat a tightening of civil liberties and a perceived fear of Islam in this country.

The 16-page booklet, officially launched at the London Muslim Center in east London, encourages Muslims to complain about negative media coverage and participate in British politics. It details the legal rights of Muslims in schools, the workplace and other situations, and describes what powers the police have to search and question suspects.

But it also notes that averting possible terrorist attacks is an "Islamic imperative" and urges citizens to report any suspected terrorist activity by calling a police hot line.

Stories and photos from wire reports

Partial vote possible, says Iraqi official

Insurgency may affect certain areas

BY SCIEHEREZEADA FARAMARZI

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's deputy prime minister reiterated his government's commitment to hold elections in January, but conceded that voting might not be possible in all parts of the country.



Al-Jawhari

Deputy Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jawhari said Tuesday that authorities are adamant that insurgents will not derail efforts to hold elections on time.

"Hypothetically, if you have a location in which the security situation is not conducive to holding elections... then you end up with the question, 'Should we delay or hold the entire process hostage to that particular district?'" he said during an interview late Saturday in his Baghdad office.

"That will be a bridge that we will have to cross when we come to it."

Saleh's comments came after Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi insisted that the vote will be held throughout the country amid concern that some areas in Iraq may be inaccessible to voters due to the insurgency.

Rumsfeld

Abizaid expects trouble before election

BY LAURA MECKLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The top U.S. military commander for Iraq said Sunday he expected flawed elections and much violence ahead of the voting scheduled for January.

Gen. John Abizaid's assessment followed a week in which President Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi spoke optimistically about the situation despite the beatings of two more Americans and the deaths of dozens of people in car bombings.

On Friday, the military said four Marines died in separate incidents, adding to a toll that has topped 1,000 since the U.S.-led invasion.

Abizaid, commander of U.S. troops in the Middle East, said the elections will be carried out. But he warned that voting may not be possible in parts of Iraq where the violence is too intense.

"I don't think we'll ever achieve perfection and when we look for perfection in a combat zone we're going to be sadly disappointed," he said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

He spoke of a major offensive before the election, with U.S. and Iraqi forces doing "whatever's necessary to bring areas in Iraq under Iraqi control."

Secretary of State Colin Powell drew a road map to the coming offensive. He said the military likely will tackle the Sunni Triangle cities of Ramadi and Samarra before attempting to restore order in nearby Fallujah, which Powell called "the tough one."

U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Thursday and again Friday that if insurgents prevent Iraqis from voting in some areas, a partial vote would be better than none at all.

But Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage told Congress a day later that elections must be held throughout the country, including areas gripped by violence.

A surge of violence, kidnappings and be-

"We don't like the situation in Fallujah," he said on CNN's "Late Edition."

"The other ones, I think, are more manageable. Ramadi and Samarra, I think we'll get those back under control, and then we'll have to deal with Fallujah," Powell said.

Also Sunday, Powell said the insurgency was getting worse as elections near.

"They are determined to disrupt the election. They do not want the Iraqi people to vote for their own leaders in a free, democratic election," he said on ABC's "This Week."

Powell said planning is under way for an Iraqi conference, possibly next month, of the world's leading industrialized nations and regional powers, including Iran and Syria.

"This was a way to reach out to Iraq's immediate neighbors and persuade them that this is the time to help Iraq, so that the region can become stable," Powell said on CNN's "Late Edition."

Including the Group of Eight powers, he said, "adds a little bit more oomph to the conference" and brings in nations that could contribute "more in the way of resources."

He said officials were aiming to hold the conference in October in Jordan or Egypt.

Meanwhile, the White House says it considered secretly backing pro-U.S. candidates in the upcoming Iraqi election, but decided against it even though President Bush's administration suspects other nations are working to influence the voting.

headings, and the inability of U.S.-led forces to secure volatile parts of the country that are controlled by insurgents, such as Fallujah, have raised doubts about the timing of the vote.

"This is about the constitution and any area that will hold out and create trouble, they risk being isolated and lose their voice," said Saleh, a Kurd and a former prime minister in the Kurdish province of



Iraqi Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi places a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., Friday.

Sulaymaniyah.

By way of example, he said there were doubts about holding the National Assembly before it opened in August.

He said 1,000 people converged on Baghdad to take part in the assembly, raising fears of terrorist attacks.

"It succeeded," he said. "We had a National Assembly" — a comment of it which is part of the political process.

U.S. deaths in Iraq 2 car bombs go off outside Fallujah

The Associated Press

BY FISNIK ABRAHIM

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 1,042 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 792 died as a result of hostile action and 250 died of nonhostile causes. The figures include three military civilians. The department did not provide an update Saturday.

The British military has reported 65 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 904 U.S. military members have died — 683 as a result of hostile action and 221 of nonhostile causes, according to the military.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ A soldier was killed Saturday by an explosive in Baghdad, Iraq.

■ Four Marines were killed Friday in at least two separate incidents in Iraq's Anbar province.

The latest identification reported by the Department of Defense:

■ Army Sgt. Skipper Soram, 23, Kolonia, Micronesia; killed Wednesday by a car bomb in Baghdad, Iraq, assigned to 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

BAGHDAD — Suicide attackers exploded a pair of car bombs outside an Iraqi National Guard compound west of the capital Sunday, wounding American and Iraqi forces, and the U.S. military announced the arrest of a senior Iraqi commander for alleged ties to the insurgency.

The developments underscored the obstacles toward building a strong Iraqi security force capable of taking over from U.S. troops and restoring stability to the country.

The two militants, who died in the blasts, tried to ram two cars loaded with explosives into the base in Khanna, a town on the outskirts of the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, a U.S. military official said on condition of anonymity.

The number of U.S. and Iraqi casualties was not immediately clear. A statement from the U.S. Marines said there were no serious injuries among U.S. forces on the base.

Marines described the first vehicle as a black BMW that exploded while driving through the barrier system outside the base.

It was followed seconds later by a blue Kia pickup, which also detonated inside the barriers, the statement said.

The attack occurred at 8 a.m. and caused serious damage to the main building, said Bassem Abbas, a witness. He added that shortly after the attack, U.S. troops cordoned off the area and prevented people from getting close.

Violence also continued Sunday elsewhere in Iraq. In Baghdad, a rocket slammed into a busy neighborhood, killing at least one person and wounding eight, hospital officials and witnesses said.

Hours later, another loud blast shook the area near the Green Zone, site of the U.S. Embassy and the interim Iraqi government. Smoke rose above the zone and alert sirens sounded. It was not clear if anything had been hit.

U.S. and insurgent forces traded fire Sunday in Ramadi, west of Baghdad, killing at least three Iraqis and injuring four, witnesses and hospital officials said. Clashes between U.S. troops and insurgents occur almost daily in the predominantly Sunni Muslim city, which is known for its anti-American sentiments.

In Fallujah, American troops have staged repeated attacks on sites that the U.S. military says are being used by followers of Jordanian-born terrorist mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. But U.S. troops have not entered Fallujah since the end of a three-week siege in April that killed hundreds.

The twin blasts in Khanna bring to at least 34 the number of suicide car bombings in September, the highest monthly total since the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003. As many as seven car bombs have been detonated in a single day this month.

Insurgents have targeted Iraqi security forces because they are seen as collaborators with the Americans and their allies in the interim government.

Brig. Gen. Talib al-Labbi, who previously served as an infantry officer in Saddam Hussein's army, was detained Thursday in the province of Diyala, northeast of Baghdad. The U.S. military said in a statement.

Al-Labbi was the acting head of the Iraqi National Guard for the Diyala province, said Maj. Neal O'Brien, spokesman for the Army's 1st Infantry Division.

1st AD unveils monument to fallen soldiers

Granite pyramid will bear names of 130 soldiers who during Operation Iraqi Freedom 1

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — The granite of choice comes from India. German engravers will work the stone. And one of the names on the monument will be that of an Estonian soldier.

Perhaps it is only fitting that a new monument to honor the war dead of the United States, a land of many races and ethnicities, is coming together with the assistance of multiple nations.

At its Welcome Home ceremony on Oct. 7, the 1st Armored Division plans to dedicate a monument bearing the names of 130 soldiers who died in the line of duty during Operation Iraqi Freedom 1, division officials said.

To those on hand, it won't matter that the monument before them will be a replica of the real one, which is still a couple of months from completion. It will be a day of celebration, as well as a day of reflection, and with many division soldiers moving on to new duty assignments, the timing and setting is right, said Master Sgt. Chantel Sena-Diaz, the project manager.

"It's an honor for me to work on it," said Sena-Diaz, noncommissioned officer in charge in the division chaplain's office. The charcoal-gray, granite monument will have three sides and be in the shape of a pyramid, she said. At its base, it will measure 6 feet by 6 feet, and the entire pyramid will sit atop a foot-high base that will be slightly larger in terms of its dimensions. The entire monument will weigh 5 tons.

Of special interest will be the engravings on the three sides. One will feature a map of Iraq and the names of several significant cities, as well as major lakes and the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Along the border of this particular side will be the crests of the six major units that made up the task force at one time or another.

Another side will include the names of all the fallen soldiers assigned to the division task force from May 2003 to July 2004. The remaining side will feature the "Old Ironsides" emblem. A quote by Maj. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the division commander, will anchor it.

Among the names will be Estonian army Sgt. Andres Nuimae, who died while attached to the force. The 21-year-old was the first soldier from that nation killed in combat abroad since 1920.

The remaining side will feature the "Old Ironsides" emblem. A quote by Maj. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the division commander, will anchor it.

"In the history of our great na-

tion, there have been times when soldiers have been called upon to re-earn America's freedom," Dempsey said in April. "This is such a time. You now take your place among the heroes of our past who sacrificed so that their fellow Americans would remain free."

The monument, Sena-Diaz said, will consist of four pieces, including the base. It will have a smooth finish to it, and will reside on the parade ground on the Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

"When the division relocates to the States," she said, "we will be actually able to take the monument apart and take it with us."

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: doughertyk@mail.strips.esd.mil.



Sena-Diaz

Geronimos making names for themselves

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Lisa Burgess

BAGHDAD — One of the elements that make servicemembers from the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., distinctive is the nicknames they bestow on their units and one another.

The troops, who play the role of opposing forces or "OpFor," use the names, or "call signs," not only for fun, but also to help hide their identities against rotating units, according to Sgt. 1st Class Brian Hester of Company B, 1st Battalion 509th Airborne Infantry Regiment.

Hester, from Mount Sterling, N.Y., and a platoon leader with Company B, said the unit has no intention of changing that practice now that it is in Iraq doing real combat operations.

Company B has its own name, the "Geronimos," after the famous American Indian of the same name. Sometimes the soldiers' nicknames also have obvious origins.

For example, Staff Sgt. John Wilbanks of Picayune, Miss., of the Geronimos' 2nd platoon, is called "Willy."

Others are a bit more obscure, such as Pfc. Brett Erickson, age 18, who is known as "Lilo" — "Because," said Erickson, "I'm from Hilo, Hawaii" which also happens to be the state where the animated film "Lilo and Stitch" was set.

Some names, like Hester's own "Ammo," are given because of something the soldier did. Hester's moniker appears to be the state where the animated film "Lilo and Stitch" was set.

ently has to do with the amount of ammunition he expended while training for Iraq, since OpFor units carry "MILES," computerized laser-tag weapons, not the real thing.

And, finally, like many call signs, other OpFor names just aren't printable in their full form, at least in a family newspaper.



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Unidentified soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment from Schweinfurt, Germany, help Iraqi firefighters into new protective equipment last week in Tikrit, Iraq.

Such is the case with the "B.B." that was bestowed on Hester's platoon leader, 1st Lt. R. Dennis Eller. It reportedly has to do with a popular hemorrhoid remedy.

Iraqi firefighters outfitted

TIKRIT, Iraq — The 1st Infantry Division recently donated more than \$90,000 in firefighting equipment to Iraqis living in Tikrit.

The equipment includes 20 firefighter uniforms, helmets, jackets, pants, boots, door pounders and pry-bars. The order was placed with the same vendor that provides equipment to the New York Fire Department, according to a 1st ID news release.

Funds for the equipment came from the Commanders Emergency Relief Program. The 1st ID's gift not only bolsters security in Tikrit, it also enhances the military's already strong relationship with Iraqi Emergency Services in Tikrit, the release said.

Father, sons serving together

With the active role taken by members

of the National Guard and Reserves in the war on terrorism, it is not unusual for family members to find themselves serving together.

But Chief Warrant Officer 5 Great Pearson and his four sons have outdone just about everyone.

Pearson, a 55-year-old pilot of the Utah National Guard, has flown Army aircraft over a period spanning 37 years — from Vietnam to Southwest Asia, where he is currently serving as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Earlier this summer, the Desert Voice of Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, reported that Pearson has been joined in the service by four sons — Christopher, 30, who works in Navy intelligence; Adam, 27, a loadmaster in the Air Force; and twins Joe and Steve, 23, both Marines. All four have joined their dad in serving in OIF, with as many as three of them in theater at once, according to the publication.

"They grew up with the military," Pearson was quoted as saying. As for the diversity of services represented by father and sons he added: "We've got all the bases covered."

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@strips.esd.mil

GI gets 25 years for murder

BAGHDAD — A U.S. soldier was sentenced to a 25-year term Saturday after a court-martial convicted him in the death of an Iraqi National Guard member in May, the military said.

Spc. Federico Merida pleaded guilty to murder during the trial in Tikrit, a city north of Baghdad.

The attack occurred in Adwar, but the military released no details about the incident.

Merida, whose age and hometown were not given, also received a dishonorable discharge and reduction in rank.

Al-Qaida operative killed

KARACHI, Pakistan — Paramilitary police killed a suspected top Al-Qaida operative Sunday in a four-hour gunbattle during a raid on a house in southern Pakistan that led to the arrest of two other men, the information minister said.

Ajmad Hussain Farooqi, who was wanted for his alleged role in the kidnapping and beheading of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl in 2002 and two assassination attempts against President Gen. Pervez Musharraf in December 2003.

Other intelligence officials said earlier that the raid was launched after police received a tip that Farooqi was hiding in the house.

Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao would not confirm any of the three men's identities, or say whether anyone had been killed. He said only that police arrested three Pakistani nationals who were "possibly involved in terrorist activities inside the country."

He said the men were being interrogated by Pakistani law enforcement agencies. Pakistan is a key ally of the United States in its war against international terrorism and has arrested more than 600 al-Qaida suspects, including several senior figures in Osama bin Laden's terror network. Many of them have been handed over to U.S. authorities.

The raid took place at a house in Nawabshah, a town about 125 miles northeast of Karachi, a southern port that is Pakistan's biggest city.

Local police official Ismail Jamali said two men who tried to flee were arrested and they were led away in blindfolds by intelligence officials. One of those men was wounded in the gunbattle, he said.

From The Associated Press



Eller

Blair admits intelligence made mistake with Iraq

BY ED JOHNSON

The Associated Press

BRIGHTON, England — Prime Minister Tony Blair acknowledged Sunday that some of Britain's intelligence on Saddam Hussein's illicit weapons program was wrong, but defended the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

"The intelligence that we had that he had actual deployable weapons has turned out to be wrong," Blair said in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corp. as delegates gathered for his ruling Labour Party's annual conference.

"Some of the information that we acted upon was wrong," said Blair, who has faced repeated calls from opposition politicians and some of his own party's lawmakers as delegates gathered for his ruling Labour Party's annual conference.

"The fact is, I think what some people want me to do is say sorry for getting rid of Saddam and that

I can't say because I don't believe that," Blair added. "I believe the world is a better and safer place without him and his sons running Iraq."

Blair is struggling to refocus on his program of domestic reform, and will use the five-day convention to launch policies ahead of national elections expected next year.

However, the kidnapping of Briton Kenneth Bigley by Islamic militants in Iraq, ongoing violence in that country and the lack of evidence of weapons of mass destruction continue to plague Blair.

Blair's popularity has slumped since committing British troops

to the war. He was once Labour's most prized electoral asset, but public faith in his trustworthiness and judgment has been undermined amid accusations his government manipulated its intelligence on Iraqi weapons of mass destruction to justify the war.

The prime minister's close alliance with President Bush, a man often characterized in British newspaper cartoons as a monkey or gun-toting cowboy, is also unpopular and some Labour lawmakers have urged Blair to distance himself from Washington.

A poll for the Independent on Sunday newspaper found that 63 percent of respondents thought Blair was out of touch with ordinary people and 57 percent thought he was inflexible.

Communicate Research interviewed 1,008 adults between Sept. 23-24 for the poll, which was published Sunday. The margin of error was plus or minus three percentage points.



Blair

ed next year.

Australian leader believes war made Middle East a better place

Howard begins his re-election campaign vowing that troops will remain in Iraq

The Associated Press

BRISBANE, Australia — Prime Minister John Howard marked the official start of his re-election campaign Sunday by claiming that the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq had made the world a better place.

At a ceremony in the Queensland state capital, Brisbane, Howard said his decision to send 2,000 Australian troops to join efforts to topple former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was the toughest he faced in more than eight years as the country's leader.

"That decision was the right decision. The world is a better place, the Middle East is a better place without Saddam Hussein."

those troops by Christmas if it wins the Oct. 9 elections.

Iraq has emerged as one of the campaign's biggest issues, with Howard's credibility coming under fire because of the failure to find weapons of mass destruction there.

Howard has consistently defended his decision, and has also said his government is stronger on national security issues and would better deal with terrorist threats.

However, a group of 380 academics called on Sunday for truth in government.

Their call came on the heels of similar statements from retired defense chiefs, senior diplomats, doctors and medical specialists criticizing Australia's role in the war in Iraq.

Howard will be the first of the three allied leaders who invaded

Iraq to face elections.

Meanwhile, Howard's speech on Sunday also focused on domestic issues and included pledges of more than \$3.6 billion in new spending and tax breaks.

Howard promised tax rebates for child care costs, a network of 24 technical schools and a funding increase for schools if he is re-elected.

The 65-year-old political veteran also promised more government subsidies for doctors to provide after-hours services, tax relief for small businesses and more aid to the elderly.

His rival, Labor leader Mark Latham, responded by saying Howard's promised spending was a sign of a desperate leader. Labor will launch its official campaign on Wednesday.

"He is trying to throw money around willy-nilly to try and win back the support of the Australian people," the 43-year-old leader told reporters. "It is a reckless spending spree."

Latham, however, promised last week an extra \$710 million for public hospitals, declaring the election would be a referendum on the public health system.

Still, Howard's conservative coalition government has so far outspent Labor in election pledges that would slash an expected \$3.8 billion surplus for the current fiscal year.



AP

Kurdish men build a house with concrete blocks Sept. 14 in a refugee camp on the outskirts of the multi-ethnic northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk. Kurdish parties have created conditions for "a major confrontation" in Kirkuk, a report from the New York-based Human Rights Watch concluded in August in calling on some 200,000 Arabs to leave the region.

Kurdish leaders call for Arabs to leave city

BY JIM KRANE

The Associated Press

KIRKUK, Iraq — A tense confrontation is building in this refugee-swollen city, with hardline Kurdish politicians demanding the departure of some 200,000 Arabs who settled here during a 30-year government campaign of Arab migration.

"We are going to oil-rich parts of northern Iraq," said the director of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's media office, said in the northern city of Sulaimaniyah this week. "This is the central policy for every Kurdish party and all Kurdish movements."

Kurdish parties appear to be trying to re-create a majority they held long ago in the contested province, traditionally a multiethnic place with Christians, Turkmen and some Arabs who trace their roots back hundreds of years.

An August report from New York-based Human Rights Watch said the headline Kurdish position underscores a "dramatic change in power relations in northern Iraq" that has left Arab families "almost completely powerless" and Kurdish parties creating conditions for "a major confrontation."

Army Maj. Gen. John Batiste, U.S. commander in the region, said the province's fast-changing demographics are the hottest long-term security threat in northern Iraq.

"We've got to work hard now so it doesn't become a civil war," Batiste said in a briefing on the U.S. Army base in Tikrit. If Kirkuk disintegrates into war, "we'll be right in the middle of it."

A Sunni Arab councilman for Kirkuk province, Mohammed

Khalil Nasif, said the headline demands for reversal of the previous government's Arabization policy sound almost as drastic as the original ethnic cleansing policy itself.

"If the Kurds do the same thing, it'll be the Kurdization program," Nasif said before a recent council session in this city of 750,000.

"We don't believe in fixing a wrong with a wrong. If a refugee comes back and wants to kick someone else out, we don't approve. Kirkuk is big enough for everyone."

It is unclear how the Kurdish parties will pursue the removal of Arabs from their homes in the process.

Jindany said the new law doesn't apply to Arabs who were given Kurdish homes and land by the deposed government of Saddam Hussein, whose moves to solidify control of the oil-rich cities of Kirkuk and nearby Khanqin brought hundreds of thousands of Arabs to northern Iraq. A similar number of Kurds were forced from their homes in the process.

"Kirkuk must be restored" to the Kurds, Jindany said. "After it's restored, anyone is free to move anywhere in Iraq."

The resturgent Kurds are being closely watched by leaders of Kirkuk's Arab and Turkmen communities, as well as by the U.S. military, which still operates several bases around Kirkuk and enforces a nightly curfew. Neighboring Turkey has said Kirkuk should remain a multiethnic city, but the capital of an enlarged Iraqi Kurdistan, the autonomous northern area. Turkey, which counts a huge Kurdish minority, has said it will block any Iraqi Kurdish steps toward independence.

"The Arabs must go back. This is the central policy for every Kurdish party and all Kurdish movements."

Azad Jindany
Director,
Patriotic Union of Kurdistan

Care, aid for family of Iraq dead widespread

State, military, community lend helping hand to survivors

BY WILSON RING

The Associated Press

MILTON, Vt. — When Heather Sheehan learned in May that her husband, Vermont National Guard Sgt. Kevin Sheehan, had been killed in Iraq it didn't immediately occur to her that she had also lost the family breadwinner.

Even before she thought about the family finances, the Vermont National Guard's casualty assistance officer had navigated the federal bureaucracy on behalf of Heather and her two children.

Within two days of Kevin's death a life insurance check had arrived and within two weeks the first of monthly checks had arrived from the Department of Veterans Affairs and Social Security.

"We're fulfilling a promise servicemen make that goes back to George Washington," said Tom Lastowski, the VA's director of insurance service in Washington. "I don't think you can expect the servicemember to put himself in harm's way if they don't have confidence that their survivors will be cared for."

And Kevin Sheehan's family — Heather and her children, Nathaniel, 6, and Alyson, 3 — is being cared for, through the work of a financial adviser, the military life insurance payment, and ongoing survivor benefits.

"It's been very hard to accept. It's hard to put a dollar amount on a life," said Heather, adding, "There has been such an outpouring of love and support and patriotism."

The Vermont National Guard officers frequently describe the organization as a family. Heather Sheehan calls the casualty assistance officer assigned to work with her "our angel in green."

The state of Vermont is stepping up to help as well. Heather and her two children will be able to attend a Vermont state school tuition free.

And the state is ready to help the families of Vermonters wounded or injured in the service with other expenses such as the costs of visiting soldiers recuperating at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

"The attitude toward the military is far different than it was during the Vietnam era," said Clayton Clark, the veterans' services coordinator for Vermont. "There is much greater respect for the military and people serving. There is greater public will for taking care of people in harm's way."

For generations the VA and its bureaucratic predecessors have been there to help those left be-



Heather Sheehan and her children, Nathaniel and Alyson, at their home in Milton, Vt., are receiving financial and other support from the Department of Veterans Affairs, the state of Vermont and the community in the aftermath of the death of husband and father National Guard Sgt. Kevin Sheehan.

hind when servicemen died in combat, by accidents or natural causes when on active duty.

"It's kind of a unique situation. Federal, state, everybody is working together," said VA Assistant Director for Veterans Services Diane Fuller. "The uniqueness is America was attacked on September 11, 2001. That's never happened before."

In the immediate aftermath of the attack on the Pentagon, the VA opened an office nearby just to process survivor claims. A six-page application was reduced to two and benefit checks for the servicemen who were among the dead at the Pentagon were cut within hours.

That same program is continuing today as servicemen die in Iraq and Afghanistan or state-side. That's how Heather Sheehan managed to get an insurance payment so fast.

While the VA's death toll in Iraq just topped 1,000 the influx of new survivors hasn't put undue stress on the organization, officials said.

The VA is currently caring for about five million veterans, including 600,000 hospitalizations a year and 50 million outpatient visits.

VA survivor benefits are being paid to 3.5 million people, including a handful of children of Civil War veterans and 196 widows of Spanish American War veterans and 1,042 World War I widows.

But the financial support from the VA comes as people realize that help for grieving survivors doesn't end when family members are handed folded flags and boxes of medals at the funeral.

In 1994 Bonnie Carroll founded the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, or TAPS, a nation-

wide peer support group. Carroll's husband, the commander of the Alaska National Guard, was killed in a 1992 plane crash.

And even before the attacks on the United States and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, TAPS was busy. Carroll said that even without the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan there are almost six deaths a day in the military.

She said the group's main office in Washington is answering a dozen new calls a day.

"What they all had in common is that they were sudden unexpected deaths of otherwise very healthy people," Carroll said.

The group offers a variety of programs. Some formal, like a summer camp for grieving children, or as casual as getting Spanish-speaking widows on opposite sides of the country on the phone together.

It's more than just immediate family members. Girlfriends or friends of service members who aren't normally included in other grief programs are also looked after.

"We are reaching out to all of those people who said that service member cared about," said Carroll. "We are going to offer a place for comfort and healing."

When the VA makes the news, it's usually because of underfunded medical programs or threats to close or scale back regional VA hospitals. But the survivors' programs are not buffeted by the vagaries of the federal budget. Survivor programs are fully funded every year without question, with cost of living increases added.

The office of Vermont independent Sen. James Jeffords regularly receives complaints from veterans about the VA health care system.

But he doesn't receive any complaints from survivors.

"Although we often have challenged to adequately fund the veterans' health care system, Congress does guarantee that compensation for veterans and death benefits for their survivors will be provided — no matter the cost," said Jeffords, a member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. "I hope we will equalize the system so that funding veterans' health care is also considered mandatory spending."

And once a person is enrolled in the VA survivor program, that support can last for decades.

Survivors are eligible for the same educational programs, health insurance, home loans and other benefits that the servicemember would have been.

The Department of Defense offers grief counseling for a service member's spouse and children. The VA provides grief counseling for parents and other relatives.

Four months after Kevin Sheehan was killed in a mortar attack along with Spc. Alan Bean Jr., 22, of Bridport, Heather Sheehan says she's still receiving sympathy cards and support from the community.

Not too long ago she received a call from a stranger who had raised about \$1,700 on her behalf. She said she split the money between the families of the four Vermont National Guardsmen who have died in Iraq and Kuwait and the Vermont Freedom Fund, an organization that ships donations to Vermont troops.

"It's more the thought that people are still thinking about him. That's been the most helpful thing," she said.

The kids are doing OK, she said. "When I say, 'OK,' they're

Some benefits offered to kin by VA, DOD

The Associated Press

Some of the benefits provided to military survivors by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense:

The basic benefit paid to a surviving spouse: \$967 a month for life. The amount is adjusted annually for inflation. The benefit stops if the surviving spouse remarries, but if the subsequent marriage ends in divorce or death, the benefit can resume.

Monthly payment for each surviving minor child: \$241 a month, also adjusted for inflation. Benefits can continue until age 23 if the child stays in school.

If a child becomes unable to care for himself, the VA will care for that child until death.

Basic military life insurance payment: \$250,000. The insurance is optional but the VA says most servicemen take it.

Survivors are eligible for the same educational programs, health insurance, home loans and other benefits that the servicemember would have been.

The Department of Defense offers grief counseling for a servicemember's spouse and children. The VA provides grief counseling for parents and other relatives.

The VA money would be in addition to any Social Security benefits or other eligible for survivors might be eligible for.

playing, they're laughing, they're eating. They do things kids do."

She describes herself as "functional."

"I am still, like, overwhelmed with everything that has to be done," she said.

Still, she's gone back to work part-time as an occupational therapist assistant who works with children, a job she describes as "a lot of fun."

She's seen a brochure for TAPS, but she hasn't done anything with it. She knows there are benefits out there that could help her return to school and will be there for her children when it's time.

She's thinking about what to do next, but hasn't made any decisions.

In spite of her loss, Heather Sheehan isn't bitter. She's thankful for the help she has been given.

"That's been the main theme. I am continually reminded of so many wonderful relationships and friendships that have been formed as a result of this horrible thing. We've just been blessed with some wonderful, wonderful people."

Slain hostage remembered for humor

Service honors Ga. man killed in Iraq

BY DANIEL YEE

The Associated Press

MARIETTA, Ga. — Jack Hensley was a man who loved to smile and make others laugh. He played golf in his sandals, sent clean versions of e-mail jokes to his pastor and wore a gress skirt for two days when he organized a trip with friends to a Jimmy Buffett concert.

But friends also say the Marietta man knew the importance of helping others have a better life, and touched many lives in the United States and overseas.

About 800 friends and family members gathered Saturday to remember Hensley, who was executed by terrorists in Iraq after his Sept. 16 kidnapping. His family learned he had been killed Wednesday, his 49th birthday.

"The world's lost a valuable resource in this man," said longtime family friend Marty Cochran, 33, of Austell.

Hensley, who had accepted a construction job in Iraq to support his wife and daughter, had been kidnapped with two

co-workers, American Eugene Armstrong and Kenneth Bigley of Britain. Armstrong was also killed, and efforts to free Bigley continued Saturday.

"God is with my brother," said Hensley's brother, Ty, during the memorial service at North Metro Church in Marietta. "I know that I will see Jack again because I am a Christian."

Hensley's pastor, the Rev. Jerry Gladson of the First Christian Church of Marietta, sought to console the audience, some of whom fought back tears during the service. One man yelled out, "We love you Jack."

Hensley's wife, Pati, and his daughter, Sara, attended the service, carrying flowers and surrounded by family members.

"In this sanctuary today I sense there is a lot of anger, there is a lot of frustration," Gladson said. "But Jack, he would find a way to be witty and funny. He would urge us to move beyond the anger."

Hensley was born in Hendersonville, N.C., and grew up in Ponca City, Okla. He graduated from the University of North Carolina.



Julia Hensley is escorted by her son, Ty Hensley, right, and a family friend Marty Cochran as they leave a memorial service Saturday in Marietta, Ga., for her son, Jack Hensley, who was slain in Iraq.

THE RIGHT PEOPLE • THE RIGHT TOOLS • THE RIGHT TIME • THE RIGHT ANSWER



Snap-on GOVERNMENT BUSINESS UNIT
EUROPE • MIDDLE EAST • AFRICA
"USAREUR RAPID TOOL PROGRAM"

Since the summer of 2001, Snap-on Tools Government Business Unit has fielded tool trucks to sell and replace tools on Army installations throughout USAREUR. Trucks carry 300 NSN's of the most demanded tools, visiting units twice a month. Warranted items are replaced at once and new items can be bought by IMPAC card or cash payments as well as through the local Contracting Offices. Items out of stock from TOP 300 at the time of visit will be shipped within 48 hours at no additional cost.

See us at
the Land Combat
Expo - booth #48!

GERMANY, AREA 1
Bernard Callaway
Field Manager Germany
(0173) 5125347
Bernard.C@snapon.com

EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST
Thomas Ritter
Account Representative
(0173) 5125759
Thomas.Ritter@snapon.com

AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST • AFRICA
Ron Christoffer
GRU Sales Manager
(06371) 916102 or
(0162) 4312400
Ron.Christoffer@snapon.com or
ron.christoffer1@usa.mil



IMPAC CARDS ACCEPTED

Official: Taliban leader killed

The Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Afghan security forces killed a senior Taliban commander along with two other fighters in a raid on a village home in southern Afghanistan, an official said Sunday.

Maulvi Abdul Ghaffar, reportedly a former inmate at the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, died in a gunbattle Saturday night in Pishi village in the southern province of Uruzgan, said Jan Mohammed Khan, governor of Uruzgan.

Khan said authorities had received intelligence that Ghaffar was hiding in the village and was planning an attack against the government. Security forces launched a raid after surrounding a house, and three men, including Ghaffar, were killed in gunfire.

None of the security forces were hurt.

The governor said Ghaffar had been a senior Taliban commander in northern Afghanistan and was arrested about two months after a U.S.-led coalition drove the militia out of power in late 2001. He was held for eight months at the U.S. detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, but was subsequently released and returned to Afghanistan.

Khan said that after release, Ghaffar was appointed as the leader of Taliban fighters in Uruzgan, a rugged region believed to be a stronghold of the hard-line Islamic militia.

U.S. military said it could not yet confirm the report.

OFFICE FURNITURE SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
Dedicated Year-Round In-Country Sales & Service



INTERNATIONAL INTERIOR SYSTEMS



#1 LAMINATE CASEGOODS IN THE INDUSTRY

TIRED OF NOT GETTING THE FURNITURE YOU ORDERED? LET IIS SHOW YOU HOW WITH GSA AND GOV WORKS. BUY ONLY AMERICAN PRODUCTS AND SUPPORT YOUR COUNTRY!!! QUALITY DOES COUNT!!!!



TEAM
DIRECTLINE



FOR ALL YOUR FILING NEEDS • DIRECTLINE FILING SYSTEMS

In Country Offices:

S. KOREA & PACRIM
MIKE WERTZ
wertz.m@iis-usa.com
011-713-2595 • 011-82-171-613-2595

OKINAWA & JAPAN
DON COOK
cook.d@iis-usa.com
098-931-6612 • 011-81-98-931-6612

EUROPE
RICK DENBURG
denburg.r@iis-usa.com
+0171 60 22 518 • +049 171 60 22 518

U.S.A.
ROBERT BOTIS
botis.r@iis-usa.com
866-972-8787 • 732-972-8787

GSA
Federal Supply Schedule

IN THE STATES

Jeanne leaves Florida under high waters

BY DEBORAH HASTINGS
The Associated Press

STUART, Fla. — Hurricane Jeanne blasted ashore in Florida with drenching rains and 120 mph wind, tearing off rooftops, hurling debris through the air and sending huge waves crashing into buildings before weakening as it sliced across the central part of the state. At least 1.5 million people were without power.

The Category 3 storm became the fourth hurricane to pummel Florida in a single season.

Debris left from the other storms became airborne as Jeanne made landfall shortly before midnight near the southern tip of Hutchinson Island near Stuart, about 35 miles north of West Palm Beach. The same area was ravaged by Frances just three weeks ago.

At the Ocean Breeze trailer park in Jensen Beach, roofs of mobile homes were peeled back like the lids of sardine cans.

"The last three weeks have been horrific and just when we start to turn the corner, this happens," said Joe Stawara, owner-manager of Fairlane Harbor Mobile Home Estates, where half of the 232 trailers were damaged.

The 400-mile diameter storm then swirled north into central Florida, an area saturated by rain from previous hurricanes that caused billions of dollars in damage and killed at least 70 people.

One person was electrocuted in Miami early Sunday after touching a downed power line, and many utilities were out.

Bridges from the mainland to Hutchinson Island were flooded and impassable early Sunday. On the barrier island, water rushed through the bottom floor of Atlan-



Penny Scheltz clears out storm drains during flooding in North Palm Beach, Fla., on Sunday in the aftermath of Hurricane Jeanne.

tic condominiums, where John Lumberson and son Josh rode out the storm. The parking lot was buried in 5 feet of sand and water, and sand rose to kitchen cabinets inside first-floor condos.

Max Mayfield, director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami, said the similar paths of Jeanne and Frances were remarkable. Mayfield said it was the "first time ever that we know of" that two hurricanes landed so close in place and time.

By late morning, Jeanne had weakened to a Category 1 storm with 75-mph top sustained winds, but its 400-mile diameter covered most of the central part of the Florida Peninsula, including

Tampa and Orlando. It was expected to stay inland over Georgia and the Carolinas through Tuesday.

Rainfall totals of 5 to 10 inches were expected in the storm's path, and flooding could be a major concern because previous hurricanes had saturated the ground and filled canals, rivers and lakes.

At least 1.5 million homes and businesses were without power Sunday, including much of Palm Beach County. Even before Jeanne hit, some 80,000 people had no electricity in the panhandle following Ivan, and officials feared many could be without power for three weeks or more.

Each storm brings higher toll

A look at deaths during the 2004 hurricane season:

Hurricane Charley:
36 deaths

■ United States: 31

■ Cuba: 4

■ Jamaica: 1

Hurricane Frances:
35 deaths

■ United States: 33

■ Bahamas: 2

Tropical Storm Gaston:
8 deaths, all in Virginia

Hurricane Ivan: 112 deaths

■ United States: 43

■ Barbados: 1
■ Cayman Islands: 1
■ Dominican Republic: 4
■ Grenada: 39
■ Haiti: 3
■ Jamaica: 15
■ Trinidad and Tobago: 1
■ Venezuela: 5

Hurricane Jeanne:
1,601 deaths

■ Haiti: 1,500 deaths

■ Dominican Republic: 24

■ Puerto Rico: 7

■ Florida: 70

Total: 1,792

—The Associated Press

Fla. knocked by fourth storm

The four hurricanes that have struck Florida this season matched the most to hit a single state since 1886, when Texas was battered four times.

The Florida storms:

■ Charley came ashore Aug. 13 with 145-mph winds at Charlotte Harbor, causing severe damage in southwest and central Florida.

■ Frances hit Labor Day weekend with 105-mph winds on the Atlantic coast near Stu-

art, stripping roofs, smashing boats and damaging Kennedy Space Center.

■ Ivan raked the western Florida Panhandle on Sept. 16 after landing on the Alabama coast with 130-mph winds.

■ Jeanne made landfall late Saturday, again near Stuart, with 120-mph winds.

The storms have caused billions of dollars in combined damage and left at least 70 dead in Florida alone.

—The Associated Press

In Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie, several people were rescued from homes during the relative calm of Jeanne's eye. No one was injured, but the residents "didn't think they were going to make it through the storm," St. Lucie County Sheriff's Capt. Nate Sperra said Sunday.

Two million people had been urged to evacuate. State officials

said more than 59,000, many with homes already damaged by Frances, stayed at shelters.

At 11 a.m. EDT Sunday, Jeanne was centered about 30 miles east-southeast of Tampa. It was moving west-northwest near 10 mph.

Jill Barton of The Associated Press in West Palm Beach contributed to this report.

NASA vs. hurricanes

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The third hurricane to hit NASA's spaceport in just over a month blew out more panels and left more gaping holes in the massive shuttle assembly building, but overall damage was not as severe as feared, a space agency official said Sunday.

"Where there's obviously some more damage, it doesn't look appreciably worse than it did," said NASA spokesman George Diller, part of a 206-member team barricaded inside the space center.

Hurricane Jeanne struck the space center — still recovering from Hurricanes Charley and Frances — with 79 mph wind, according to unofficial reports. It would have been more ferocious if the storm had come ashore just a little farther north.

All three space shuttles were reported safe in their hangars on Sunday. All space station equipment and new building building launching launchers to the orbiting outpost were also said to be fine.

From The Associated Press

Life in Haiti forges on after deadly tropical storm

BY AMY BRACKEN
The Associated Press

GONAIVES, Haiti — Amid the destruction from Tropical Storm Jeanne, which has killed at least 1,500 people, Haitians took time to groom themselves for Sunday Mass, braiding little girls' hair and even waxing shoes as church bells chimed to call people to prayer.

Other residents broke into a moving container truck and threw packets of water into the street, where children dodged other aid trucks to grab the precious loot.

"We don't have anything but we're doing our best," Joseyenne Aschale said in front of a classroom where she sleeps on the floor with eight other people. "After all this we have to be respectful and we have to thank God for saving us. So many people died," she said.

Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue said Saturday the storm killed at least 1,500. Officials earlier said 1,251 people were missing



An Un, Brazil's soldier, crouches to look the looting of a truck with food to be distributed to victims of Hurricane Jeanne in Gonaives, Haiti, on Saturday.

— many suspected washed out to sea or buried in debris in areas still inaccessible more than a week after the storm. Some 300,000 are homeless in Haiti's northwest province.

Latortue said Haiti's government is drawing up plans to evacuate some homeless victims from Gonaives to a tent camp to allow a cleanup of neighborhoods coated with contaminated sludge and de-

bris. Gonaives is the Caribbean country's third-largest city with some 250,000 residents.

Sunday was sunny and bright, a blessing after thunderstorms Saturday drenched homeless victims who are living on sidewalks and on rooftops of flooded homes.

At the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. Charles Borromeo, four people stood and prayed in the back, unwilling to venture into a disaster zone of overturned pews and trash ankle-deep in mud.

With ordinary people looting aid trucks and street gangs mobbing relief workers and stealing food from the hands of people at aid centers, 140 Uruguayan soldiers were on their way to reinforce about 600 U.N. peacekeepers already in the hard-hit city, said Toussaint Kongo-Doudou, a spokesman for the U.N. mission.

A U.N. humanitarian relief coordinator, Eric Moulesserie, said gangsters were mobbing relief workers and "there's nothing we can do."

35-year sentence for pastor

The Associated Press

POCAHONTAS, Ark. — A former pastor was sentenced to 35 years in prison for raping a young girl who said the man had told her that God approved of their sexual relationship.

A jury convicted Donald Lee Flanery, 46, on Friday, and recommended the sentence that Circuit Judge Harold Irwin imposed later that day in Randolph County, in northeastern Arkansas.

Prosecutors said Flanery, of Ravenwood Springs, assaulted the Maynard girl nearly three dozen times, beginning when she was 11 and ending when she was 13.

At the time of the incidents, Flanery was the pastor of a non-denominational church known as The Family of Christ. Documents filed in the case said the assaults occurred at the church, his residence behind the church and at a new home he was building.

The girl told investigators that Flanery had told her that God approved of a man having more than one woman, despite her age.

"It was biblical," she said. She also told police that Flanery was a religious man "who would go through bouts of apology," according to investigators.

Sheriff Brent Earley said members of Flanery's church protested the verdict and pointed fingers at prosecution witnesses.

"They stood up and approached the witnesses and some said, 'You're going to pay for this,'" Earley said. Deputies were summoned to help with security.



Julie Williams, left, comforts Shatira Funches, 14, Saturday after her three siblings and another victim were killed in a late-night house fire Friday in Chicago. The bodies of three children were found in a bedroom in the attic, officials said. Another teenage boy found at the foot of a staircase died at a nearby hospital, officials said. CHICAGO SUN-TIMES/AP

House fire kills 3 kids, teen

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Three children and a teenager were killed in a late-night fire at a pastor's home while the pastor and his wife attended a church service, fire officials said Saturday.

The bodies of three children were found in a bedroom in the attic, officials said. A teenage boy found at the foot of a staircase died later at a nearby hospital, they said.

The Cook County Medical Examiner's office had not released

all the victims' names Saturday, but identified three of the children as 12-year-old Cedric Langston, 7-year-old Travis Funches and Dionna Funches, who family members say was a toddler.

Alderman Ed Smith and neighbors said they were the children and godson of the Rev. Wayne Funches, pastor of New Grace Memorial Missionary Baptist Church.

"When tragedy strikes, it really hurts. We can only be there to support," Smith said.

The cause of the blaze remains under investigation.

At 80, Carter still working for peace

BY DOUG GROSS

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — As he approaches 80, Jimmy Carter could be enjoying retirement — teaching Sunday school, relaxing with family and reflecting on a life that's taken him from the peanut fields of Plains, Ga., to the White House and back.

Instead, Carter continues to use his status as a former president to promote peace, health and voting initiatives across the globe at a sometimes startling pace for his age.

"I have been blessed by graduating from the White House at an early age," Carter, who left the presidency at 56, told The Associated Press. "Enough so that I could use the prestige and fame and experience from being president of the greatest nation in the world to have access to leaders and understand the problems that they face."

The majority of the work that Carter does is through the Carter Center — a combination of a presidential library and a "mini-United Nations" he and his wife founded in 1982 on a wooded patch of land in Atlanta.

Carter, whose 80th birthday is Friday, won the Nobel Peace Prize two years ago. He has remained active on other fronts as well, from his woodworking shop in Plains to the stage of the Democratic National Convention in Boston.



President Jimmy Carter

Witness his schedule for this year: Carter traveled to Ghana, Togo and Mali in February as part of an effort to eradicate Guinea worm — a painful disease that has ravaged parts of Africa since Biblical times.

He spent a week in June in rural Alabama and Georgia helping build houses with Habitat for Humanity — an annual tradition he plans to take to Mexico next year.

In July, he joined Carter Center staff in Indonesia to monitor that nation's first round of elections, followed by a vacation in the Galapagos Islands.

He traveled to Venezuela in May and August for more election monitoring.

And throughout the year, he continued to teach Sunday school in Plains and lectured at least once a month at Atlanta's Emory University, where he has been on the faculty since leaving the White House.

He published his 19th book, "Sharing Good Times," late last year and spent much of this year working on a sequel to "The Horrible Nest," a novel of historical fiction set during the Revolutionary War.

"President Carter keeps a schedule that would wear out much younger men and women," said Steven Hochman, director of research for The Carter Center.

What helps him keep up such a pace, Carter says, is that it doesn't feel like work.

"The bottom line is it's that's an enjoyable thing," he said.

"Nothing that I do is sacrificial."

One would have to go back to William Howard Taft to find another American president whose post-presidency years were as busy, said University of Georgia political scientist Charles Bullock. Taft, who spent four uneasy years in the White House from 1908 to 1912, went on to become chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Most other presidents "once they left the White House, pretty much withdrew," Bullock said. "They either retired altogether or at least dropped out of the limelight."

Feeling Better?

Thanks to **Medical Research**, effective treatments and cures are only a fingertip and glass of water away.

1709 Advanced Cancer Research Center
1713 AIDS Community Research Initiative of America
1704 AIDS Research Alliance of America
1742 Alpha-1 Foundation
1701 Alzheimer's and Aging Research Center
1702 American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine
1766 American Association of Diabetes Educators
1703 Education & Research Foundation
1705 American College of Rheumatology Research and Education Foundation
1734 Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
1707 Brain Tumor Foundation of America
1729 Breast Cancer Research Foundation, The
1711 Cancer Immunology Research Foundation
1719 Cancer Research Fund of the Damon Runyon-Walter Winchell Foundation
1722 Cancer Treatment Research Foundation
1747 City of Hope
1703 Diabetes National Research Group
1714 Foundation Fighting Blindness
1716 Glaucoma Research Foundation
1712 Guillain-Barre Syndrome Foundation International
1718 Hope Heart Institute, The
1706 Infectious Disease Science Center
1720 Interstitial Cystitis Association of America
1724 Lyme Disease Foundation
1765 Marrow Foundation, The
1721 Multiple Sclerosis National Research Institute
1717 National Alliance for Autism Research
1730 National Eating Disorders Association
1728 Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation
1710 Prostate Cancer Foundation (formerly CaP CURE)
1725 United Leukodystrophy Foundation, The
1723 V Foundation, The



Medical Research Charities

Combining forces. Finding cures.

8001 Braddock Road, Suite 310
Springfield, VA 22151
PH: (703) 764-3140 • FAX: (703) 764-3375

www.medicalresearchcharities.org

DESTINATIONS UNLIMITED

RTT is your Air Force Owned, Fully Licensed Travel Agency dedicated to giving you the BEST deal!

Compare & Save!

Check out our Super fares & many other fantastic travel bargains!

Online Booking 24/7

Contact us or check our website at www.RTTTravel.com



RTT, Your Worldwide Travel Agency.

RTT Americas • 800.316.316
408.633.0650
06.371.4630

RTT Semabach RTT Vologevch
800.201.2059
408.7719 408.7084
06.302.2939 06.311.5018



(10/04/04)

CFC# 1700

IN THE WORLD

Plane forced to land

LONDON — A bomb threat that mentioned Iraq forced a New York-bound Greek airliner to make an emergency landing Sunday at London's Stansted Airport escorted by military jets, authorities said.

An airport spokeswoman said an Athens newspaper had received a phone call saying there was a bomb on board the Olympic Airlines plane.

Authorities immediately notified the pilot of the call, and he asked for a military escort.

Britain's Royal Air Force scrambled planes to assist the airliner, the Ministry of Defense said. The plane, headed from Athens to New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, landed safely at Stansted at 3:30 p.m., an airport spokeswoman said.

The spokeswoman said the plane, with 301 passengers on board, landed in "full emergency" status and was safely evacuated.

Airline officials said the sweep of the aircraft would take up to four hours and then the passengers would continue their trip on the same plane.

Iran opposing sanctions

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran said Sunday that the international community, not Iran, would suffer if Iran's nuclear dossier is referred to the U.N. Security Council.

The United States has been pushing for the dossier to go to the Security Council because it believes Iran is covertly developing nuclear weapons. Iran insists its nuclear program is strictly for the generation of electricity.

"We don't welcome that our (nuclear) dossier be referred to the U.N. Security Council. But if it happens, the international community and Europe, not Iran, will suffer," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi told reporters Sunday.

Asefi did not explain how the world would suffer, but he said Iran "has the capability to avoid problems" even if the Security Council addressed the issue. The council has the power to impose sanctions on Iran.

From the Associated Press

MILITARY RINGS SALE
ARMY • NAVY • COAST GUARD • MARINES

Balfour
We Won't Be Understood!
100% Satisfaction Guarantee
Design Your Ring with Infinite Options

shop
DanielsJewelers.com

Daniels

Turkey OKs EU-oriented reforms

Criminal law changes may boost country's chance of membership

BY SELCAN HACAĞLU

The Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Parliament voted overwhelmingly Sunday to approve penal code reforms aimed at boosting Turkey's chances of starting membership talks with the European Union.

The special session came just days after Turkish leaders shelved an effort by government lawmakers to criminalize adultery, a demand that had upset EU officials and Turkish women's groups and human rights activists.

The government took the unusual step of calling a Sunday session to pass the package in advance of an Oct. 6 EU report that will assess if Turkey is ready to start membership negotiations with the bloc. EU leaders had warned that

the report could be negative if the adultery proposal was included in the new penal code.

Both Turkey's government and opposition parties supported the criminal law changes, which must be approved by President Ahmet Necdet Sezer.

The reforms revamp Turkey's decades-old criminal laws to bring them up to EU standards. The package includes laws against rape, pedophilia and torture and a strengthening of human rights standards.

The vote came three days after Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan pledged to EU officials that the package would be passed in time for the report, which will be used by the leaders of the 25 EU nations to decide in December whether to give Turkey a date to start talks.

After meeting with Erdogan on Thursday, EU Enlargement Commissioner Guenter Verheugen said once the penal reforms are approved, there would be "no more obstacles" to preparing the report.

EU officials signaled the report was likely to recommend that membership talks begin. But they also indicated it would be years before Turkey could become a full member.

While many European leaders support negotiations with Turkey, there are worries within the bloc about taking in a large, poor and overwhelmingly Muslim country with a questionable record on democracy and human rights.

"Unfortunately, the debate over adultery has created serious

doubts in Europe about Turkey's determination to preserve its secularity," Osmu Oyman, a lawmaker from the main opposition party, said after the vote. "Even if this is solved, you've created a confidence problem."

Erdogan's governing party has roots in the Islamic movement but has made Turkey's EU bid its top priority. It has carried out sweeping democratic reforms, broadening freedom of expression, granting greater rights to minority Kurds and trimming the role of the military in politics.

But the demand by conservative supporters of Erdogan's party for the criminalization of adultery threatened to derail negotiations with the EU. Until Erdogan reportedly pledged to drop the adultery clause during his visit to the bloc's headquarters Thursday.

Israel kills Hamas operative in Syria

BY ALBERT AJI

The Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — A car bomb killed a Hamas operative in Damascus on Sunday after weeks of Israeli warnings that members of the Islamic militant group would not be safe in Syria, and Israeli security officials acknowledged in Jerusalem that the Jewish state was involved.

Police at the scene of al-Zahra district explosion were seen retrieving pieces of the body of Izz Edine Subhi Sheikh Khalil, whose car exploded outside his home at 10:45 a.m. when, according to Hamas officials, he was trying to start it.

Witnesses, however, said Khalil, who had been speaking on his mobile phone, started the car and had just begun moving in the white Mitsubishi Jeep when it exploded some 10 yards from his home.

In Israel, the government issued no statement, but security officials acknowledged Israeli involvement in Khalil's assassination. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity.

Sunday's killing was the first by Israel of a Hamas member on Syrian soil, though it unsuccessfully tried to assassinate Khaled Masha'al, who is now the group's leader, in Jordan in 1997. Israel has killed many Hamas leaders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including the group's founder, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, earlier this year.

A Hamas statement published on the group's Web site suggested it may take its fight against Israel outside the Palestinian ter-



A Syrian truck lifting a vehicle which was blown up Sunday in one of Damascus's districts. Israel claimed responsibility Sunday for the car bombing that killed a top Hamas leader.

ritories in retaliation for Khalil's killing. Israel "has opened a new door for the struggle by transferring the battle outside the land of Palestine," it said, adding that Israel must bear the consequences.

But a Hamas spokesman in Lebanon, Osama Hamdan, denied any decisions have been made to strike Jewish or Israeli targets

abroad.

Ahmad Haj Ali, an adviser to the Syrian information minister, described the assassination as a "terrorist and cowardly action."

"This is not the first warning" Israel has tried to convey to Syria, Haj Ali said. "What happened indicates that Israel's aggression has no limits."

Four arrested by anti-terror police in London

The Associated Press

LONDON — Anti-terrorist police have arrested four men in London, acting on information from a newspaper which claimed it had foiled a "dirty bomb" plot, officials said Saturday.

Metropolitan Police said three men were arrested Friday at a hotel at Brent Cross in north London, and a fourth man was arrested later at his home.

Police said the four men were held on suspicion of the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism, and were being questioned Saturday.

Police said they were acting on information supplied by the News of the World, Sunday tabloid which is Britain's largest-selling newspaper.

The newspaper said reporter Mazher Mahmood had been in

touch with a man who said he represented someone from Saudi Arabia who was seeking to purchase red mercury, a substance that many scientists doubt actually exists.

The Metropolitan Police press office declined to comment on the News of the World account.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, black marketers have been peddling substances

they call red mercury, apparently passing it off to buyers as a highly radioactive compound purportedly developed in Soviet nuclear facilities.

Samples that have turned up in Europe have proved to be bogus, however, and many scientists and law enforcement officials say the substance does not exist — or is far less dangerous than it has been made out to be.

OPINION

Kerry's claims about draft need to air out

Two recent polls indicate the presidential race has tightened again to within the margin of error. John Kerry made it clear that this isn't true Wednesday in a speech in Florida.

In response to a question after a speech in West Palm Beach, Kerry said President Bush might bring back the military draft if he is re-elected.

This has become a meme among Democrats.

"There will be no draft when John Kerry is president," said vice presidential candidate John Edwards.

"America will reinstate the military draft" if Bush is re-elected, said former Sen. Max Cleland, a Kerry surrogate, in a speech at Colorado College in Colorado Springs.

"I think that George Bush is certainly going to have a draft if he goes into a second term, and any young man who doesn't want to Iraq might think about voting for him," said former Kerry rival Howard Dean at a speech at Brown University in Rhode Island.

Web logger Betsy Newmark said that college students at the University of Arizona have been getting an e-mail that says: "There is pending legislation in the House and Senate, S 80 and HR 163, to reinstate the mandatory draft for boys and girls (ages 18-26) starting June 15, 2005. This plan includes women in the draft, eliminates higher education as a shelter, and makes it difficult to cross into Canada."

"The Bush administration is quietly trying to get these bills passed now, while the

public's attention is on the elections. The Bush administration plans to bring mandatory draft in the Spring of 2005, just after the 2004 presidential election."

There are bills in the House and Senate calling for reinstitution of conscription. They have attracted a handful of sponsors and cosponsors, all of whom are Democrats.

The bills are going nowhere, because the Bush administration strongly opposes them, as do about three quarters of the members of Congress.

Donald Bush and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld have said repeatedly that America does not need a draft to fight the war on terror.

"If you add up everyone we are looking for in the active forces, 1.4 million, and the Guard and Reserve and the Selective Reserve and the Individual Ready Reserve, it's about 2.5 million," the administration has said. "And all you have to do is alter the incentives and we can attract and retain all the people we need. We do not need to go to conscription."

The draft is an artifact of a bygone era. We would sooner bring back the musket or the crossbow than the draft, because military leaders recognize the U.S. armed forces are the best in the world in large part because they are all volunteer.

During Vietnam, the IQ and education levels of the young men who were drafted into the Army and Marine Corps were significantly below the average for the youth cohort as a whole. In my Marine recruit platoon in 1970, half were high school dropouts; there were twice as many convicted felons as people with any college, and the other college boy was dual-batted (he'd been busted for smoking dope at the University of Tulsa).

The men and women entering the armed



forces today have intelligence and education levels far above the youth cohort as a whole. The "justice-motivated volunteer" is a thing of the past.

In the Vietnam era, morale in the Army was poor. Morale in today's Army is high, and it is out of sight in the Marine Corps.

The high-technology military we have today requires bright young men and women to operate complex equipment — people who are willing to serve long enough to recoup the cost of training them. A draft that would bring in the unwilling for too short a time to be useful would undermine this setup.

I do think we need a somewhat larger

Army and Marine Corps to effectively wage the war on terror. But there is no reason to suppose we cannot recruit the 40,000 to 50,000 additional troops we need voluntarily, out of a population of 294 million.

Kerry's lie about the draft is of a parcel with Democratic claims to seniors that Republicans will end Social Security, or to blacks that Republicans will bring back segregation. It is as much a sign of desperation as it is of a lack of integrity.

Jack Kelly is the national affairs writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Toledo Blade. A former Marine and Green Beret, he was a deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force in the Reagan administration. His column appears weekly in Stars and Stripes.

When discussing safety, even parenting plays part

Sometimes I wonder what it must be like when a presidential candidate comes to Kemmenbunkport for a visit. Does George the Younger tell George the Elder what he tells the country?

Does he say that we are safer with Saddam in prison than in power? Does he insist that we are better off having overthrown the dictator rather than having contained him? I suspect it might be just a splash awkward. After all, it was dad who decided not to topple the Iraq when he was on the run. It was George the 41st who believed that the chaos

Safer for taking our dollars away from homeland security? Are we recruiting more enemies than we are defeating? Will we only know when and if there is another attack? Bush stands before the United Nations and every other political forum and states that Iraq is on the way to being "secure, democratic, federal and free." His Democratic opponent, John Kerry, charges that "terrorists are pouring across the border" and calls the invasion a "crime against history's proportions."

But most Americans have no way to either refute or to affirm the central question raised: Are we safer? In the face of so many troubling unknowns and such fearful uncertainties, facts fall by the wayside. We are left relying on our beliefs ... about human nature, about the way the world works.

These beliefs reflect what George Lakoff has described as the worldviews of conservatives and liberals. A linguist by training and

an ardent "re-framer" of progressive politics, Lakoff describes the great divide as related less to political ideology than to child-raising models. Conservatives ascribe to the "strict father parent model" while liberals abide by the "nurturant parent model."

In a small handbook for progressives ... he draws a line from the moral values of the strict father family to foreign policy: "Good and evil are locked in a battle ... Only superior strength can defeat evil and only a show of strength can keep evil at bay." This is the language that Bush uses against evildoers.

Nurturant parents have as much at stake in protecting their children and their country. They have no illusions about empathizing with terrorists who behead their captives. But they have a (forgive me) nuanced view ... in which security is not just calculated by body counts but also by the changing minds of those who can become either to-

morrow's terrorists or democrats.

Most Americans carry both models in their minds but, in times of trouble, they fall back to the protection of the strictest of fathers. That is precisely Kerry's dilemma.

The war in Iraq is a dangerous distraction from the war on terror ... But [the president] has framed the issue of security so powerfully that many Americans can hardly hear the din of suicide bombs.

Are we safer? At the end of her conversation speech Laura Bush talked about a time when schoolchildren were told to "duck and cover" under their desks in case of nuclear war. What she forgot is that the safety drills the government sponsored for frightened children were as phony as they were reassuring. Now we have another duck and another cover story. Maybe father knew best.

Ellen Goodman is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Ellen Goodman



Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY

might be worse than containment. When another and another car bomb goes off in Baghdad, does this most discreet father ever want to say: I told you so? Nevertheless the president's insistence that the world is safer without Saddam is a powerful political position for one reason: It can't be disproved. There is simply no way to rerun the past year and do a double-blind crossover study of what would have happened if we hadn't invaded Iraq.

Are we better off? Compared to what? Are we safer than we would have been with a long, continuing pressure of world forces? Safer than if we'd focused on al-Qaida instead? For that matter, who is safer? The people Saddam persecuted? Surely. But the 1,000 American soldiers who died? The 20,000 Iraqis? And, if that math is perplexing, no one can truly calculate safety without seeing the future. Are we safer for having taken our eye off Iran and North Korea?



Swiss referendums

GENEVA — Voters in Switzerland — where one in five residents is foreign-born — rejected liberalizing tough rules on granting citizenship Sunday.

Two government-backed citizenship proposals failed to win support in a majority of the 26 cantons, official results showed by early afternoon.

In other issues, a government plan to pay for 14 weeks of maternity leave appeared headed for passage, while voters rejected a proposal to halt the government's cost-cutting program to close smaller post offices.

German elections

BERLIN — Germany's governing Social Democrats avoided major losses in local elections Sunday in the country's most populous state, while the conservative opposition lost votes but stayed well ahead in a traditional stronghold for Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's party, exit polls indicated.

In the last electoral test of a year that has brought Schröder's party a string of reversals, the Social Democrats polled 33 percent in voting for local councils across North Rhine-Westphalia, according to a projection by Westdeutscher Rundfunk television based on exit polls.

Big Swiss fungus

BIRMENSDOEF, Switzerland — Swiss scientists have discovered what they believe is Europe's biggest fungus, stretching wide under an Alpine forest.

The *Fungus Mushroom* — also known by its Latin species name *Armillaria ostoyae* — was found lurking in the Engadine national park in the eastern Swiss Alps, said the Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research. Spanning 86 acres, the fungus it believed to be 1,000 years old, the institute added.

Taj Mahal anniversary

NEW DELHI — India celebrates the 350th anniversary of its most famous monument, the Taj Mahal, on Monday — though historians can't agree on its precise age and fears of damage by the enormous white marble structure have dampened plans to mark the event.

In fact, a low-key ceremony on Monday to celebrate the 17th-century building is to take place about 1.5 miles away at the Red Fort.

From The Associated Press

Terror in Russia: A wider threat?

Chechen rebels may be connected to global network

BY VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The brutality and meticulous planning of the school hostage-taking and other recent terror attacks in Russia have focused new attention on the growing influence of Islamic extremists over Chechen rebels and raised suspicions of a global terror connection.

The conflict in Chechnya, which began a decade ago as a secular fight for independence from Moscow, has steadily evolved into what local and foreign militants have described as jihad, or "holy war" against Russia.

"Over time, a growing number of people in Chechnya have identified themselves with global jihad," said Alexei Malashenko, an expert with the Carnegie Endowment's Moscow office.

Fundamentalist Islamic groups have methodically recruited followers among Russia's 20 million Muslims since the 1990s, often driving mainstream Muslim clerics from their mosques in such Caucasus regions as Dagestan and Kabardino-Balkaria, near Chechnya.

"Extremist groups have turned many mosques into their headquarters," said Alexander Sharavin, the director of the Institute for Political and Military Analysis.

Along with radical Islamic doctrines, Arab fighters and instructors also have brought new tactics to Chechnya, such as suicide bombings. "They act as a catalyst and give an international dimension to these attacks ... as part of global jihad," Malashenko said.

Russian officials claimed that the 30-some militants who seized a school in the southern city of Beslan included Arabs, and President Vladimir Putin says international terrorism has unleashed a war against Russia. Many analysts believe foreign terror groups likely played a role in twin Russian plane bombings, a suicide attack near a Moscow subway station and the school seizure, which together killed more than 430 people.

"Al-Qaida and other international



CHANNEL ONE RUSSIAN TELEVISION CHANNEL: ABOVE: Masked police officers hold a man identified as Nurpashi Kulayev in Beslan, North Ossetia, in this TV image. Russian prosecutors charged the man with terrorism and murder in connection with the deadly hostage-taking at a school in Beslan, the Interfax news agency reported Sept. 14. Left: Ossetian children sent to schools Sept. 15 in Beslan, guarded by soldiers.



terror groups view Russia as a part of Western civilization that must be broken and forced to its knees," said Sergei Arutyunov, an expert on the North Caucasus with Russia's Academy of Sciences.

Shamil Basayev, a Chechen warlord who claimed responsibility for the latest attacks, said his militants who seized the school included two Arabs, but he sought to downplay connections to global terror, including Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida organization.

In a letter posted recently on a

rebel Web site, Basayev claimed he had received less than \$20,000 in foreign donations this year.

"I am not acquainted with bin Laden," Basayev wrote. "I don't receive money from him but would not refuse it."

Basayev, who gained notoriety for cruel attacks against civilians since a 1995 hostage-taking raid on a hospital in southern Russia, was declared a threat to the United States last year by the U.S. State Department, which pointed to his alleged al-Qaida links.

A U.S. counterterrorism official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it isn't clear yet whether al-Qaida was involved in recent attacks in Russia. Previous indications were that al-Qaida's assistance to the Chechen rebels revolved around financial support, logistical support and fighters, rather than operational guidance or direction, the official said.

In public statements, bin Laden has cited Chechnya as a region where war should be waged, and al-Qaida-associated militants still are thought to be fighting in Chechnya.

In Chechnya, Basayev fought alongside Omar Ibn al-Khattab, a Saudi-born rebel leader who died in 2002, and Basayev later maintained close ties with another Saudi militant, Abu Walid, reportedly killed in Chechnya earlier this year.

Russian officials said yet another Saudi, Mohammed Abu al-Seif, likely had played a role in plotting the school seizure and the other recent terror attacks in Russia. He is considered al-Qaida's emissary in Chechnya.

Alexander Ignatenko, the head of the Institute for Religion and Politics, a Moscow-based independent think tank, said al-Seif, a radical Islamic theologian, had acted as a top spiritual counselor for rebels in Chechnya, issuing fatwas, or religious edicts, to approve specific attacks.

According to some accounts, Arab counselors were appointed co-leaders of even small rebel units, forming a separate chain of command controlled by al-Seif.

Many of the Arab fighters who joined Basayev's group, which calls itself by an Arabic name, Riyadus Salikhin, later moved to fight in Iraq and other areas, Ignatenko said.

"The people who fought in Chechnya come back to Saudi Arabia and stage terror attacks there," Ignatenko said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Such 'Chechen Arabs' are spreading now throughout the Arab world, one example being Morocco."

Dia'a Rashwan, a leading terror researcher in Egypt, said that while Arab militants fought in Chechnya, close coordination between different Islamic militant groups was unlikely.

"There is probably a copycat tactic," he said. "These groups are using tactics that are used elsewhere, without direct instructions from a single centralized command."

Tarek al-Isawi of The Associated Press contributed to this report from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

U.S. generals says N. Korea missile activities 'alarming'

The Associated Press

TOKYO — North Korea is likely improving its missile technology, and recent signs that it may be preparing to test a ballistic missile are troubling, a top U.S. military official said Sunday.

U.S. Pacific Air Forces Commander Gen. Paul V. Hester said North Korea has passed a serious regional threat since 1998, when it demonstrated that it had long-range missile capabilities by test firing a Taepodong missile over Japan into

the Pacific Ocean.

That technology is expected to have improved and become a "greater concern," said Victor L. Wozniak, spokesman for U.S. Forces Japan, quoted Hester as saying.

Hester said more precise North Korean missiles were among likely improvements.

The presumed advances made recent signs of missile-related activity in North Korea a cause for worry, Hester said, who was visiting Japan to attend ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of Ja-

pan's Air Self-Defense Forces.

Tokyo said last week that Pyongyang might be preparing to test a ballistic missile capable of reaching almost anywhere in Japan, citing intelligence that showed North Korea beefing up troops and equipment around launch bases.

Officials in Washington, Tokyo and Seoul have since tried to play down the movements as probably being routine military exercises and stressed that an immediate launch was unlikely.

Choe Su Hon, North Korea's vice foreign

minister, dismissed the reports his government was readying for a ballistic missile launch as "conjecture, rumor and speculation" in a meeting with Japan's foreign minister in New York on Friday, according to Japanese news media.

Tokyo and Washington, however, have reportedly boosted their surveillance of the communist country, while Japanese diplomats meeting with North Korean officials in Beijing over the weekend also reportedly voiced concern about the developments.

Hard day in the field?

Relieve stress with every curve!

Pentagon Car Sales

...GERMANY

KAISERSLAUTERN

Kaiserstrasse 1
67661 Kaiserslautern
Tel: 0631 351 900

HEIDELBERG

Hebelstrasse 3
69115 Heidelberg
Tel: 06221 144 911

MANNHEIM

Waldeckweg 3
68309 Mannheim
Tel: 0621 724 6901

WIESBADEN / MAINZ

Ludwig-Wolker-Str. 14
55252 Mainz-Kastel
Tel: 06134 567 800

...ITALY

AVIANO

Via Pordanone 48D
Aviano (PN) 33081
Tel: 0434 676 613/4

VICENZA

Viale Della Pace 254B
Vicenza (VI) 36100
Tel: 0444 305 888

NAPLES

Via Eduardo Scarfoglio, 7/1
80125 Naples
Tel: 081 762 3868

SIGONELLA

c/o Hotel Sigonella Inn
Suite 101/102 opposite NAS 1
Tel: 095 713 0410

LA MADDALENA

Piazza Bambin Gesù 11
07024 La Maddalena (SS)
Tel: 0789 723 026

...SPAIN

ROTA

Plaza Del Triunfo 6
11520 Rota (Cadiz)
Tel: 956 841 678

Custom order your new car at factory direct prices through the Military Sales Program at Pentagon Car Sales...

- Tax-Free Factory Direct Pricing
- Overseas & Stateside Delivery Programs
- Easy To Use Internet Ordering Service
- Serving The US Military Since 1984
- American Owned & Operated



Visit our Website Today!



Drive Into Your Dreams

... be connected!

www.PentagonCarSales.com

Sales@PentagonCarSales.com

Clearing Dillinger?

WI GREEN BAY — A police officer and dispatcher say they've solved a 1931 bank robbery case — and the culprit isn't ruthless Depression-era bank robber John Dillinger, as many people had suspected.

Officer Mike Knetzger and dispatcher Tracy Ertl determined Dillinger was in prison when gangsters robbed Green Bay's South Side State Bank in 1931 and got in a shootout with police.

The robbers got nearly \$7,000 but demanded more.

Four police officers arriving in a squad car were met with submachine-gun fire before they could get out of their vehicle, and three of the officers were wounded, Knetzger said.

Knetzger and Ertl said they've figured out who did it, but they're not saying yet. They say the answer will be in a book they're writing, due out next year.

Strange bedfellows

NC CRAMERTON — The mayor and the town manager plan an unusual mixing of the branches of municipal government.

Mayor Cathy Biles and Town Manager David Young are scheduled to marry Oct. 1, and not all of the town's leaders are happy about it.

"I'm not saying they need my permission, but there's definitely a line of do's and don'ts in the business world and they have crossed it," said Commissioner Ronnie Murphy.

Other commissioners say they don't worry about whether the marriage will influence town business.

"Both of those parties do a great job," said Commissioner Jackie Sumner. "From a personal perspective I wish them luck."

Marijuana found in truck

OK MUSKOGEE — A truck driver made a startling discovery when he found more than a ton of marijuana hidden away in a trailer's fake bulkhead.

The Muskogee Police Department's Special Investigations Unit was called to the Trucks For You long-haul trucking company, Sgt. Shannon Humphrey said.

Fred Payton, an independent driver from Miami, Okla., called authorities after finding he could not fit his normal-size load into the trailer, Humphrey said.

Payton, who measured the trailer, found tucked behind a false wall 76 plastic-wrapped pounds of marijuana weighing 2,076 pounds, Humphrey said. Police estimated the marijuana's value at \$3.1 million, she said.

Taxidermy support

ME CORNINA — A teacher leading one of the nation's only high school taxidermy courses has come a long way since he once stopped to pick up road kill. Now he's getting specimens from the Smithsonian.

Howard Whitten, a Nokomis Regional High School science teacher, convinced the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., to donate \$1 million worth of stuffed and mounted animals, tanned and

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

frozen hides, skulls and frozen specimens.

More than 400 specimens were donated, including a pair of lions from Mozambique, bighorn sheep from Russia and a grizzly bear. The items were in a personal collection donated to the Smithsonian.

Buckeye bandit

OH AMANDA — Sarah Young woke one morning to find her buckeye tree stripped bare of nuts.

Was it the work of busy squirrels or a buckeye thief? Young suspects the latter.

"It's nuts!" Young said. "I want my buckeyes back."

It happened again when Young returned to her rural home about 25 miles southeast of Columbus and found her second buckeye tree shorn. A neighbor's buckeye tree also had been plundered.

Young and Fairfield County Sheriff Dave Phalen suspect there's a market for supplying the shiny, brown nuts to jewelry makers who sell buckeye necklaces on the streets around Ohio State University on football game days.

Big retailers out

AZ FLAGSTAFF — City officials approved rules meant to keep big-box retailers from mov-

ing into the city. The ordinance restricts retail outlets to 125,000 square feet and requires a conditional use permit for any store bigger than 75,000 square feet. Existing businesses that decide to expand would also have to follow the new standards.

Mistrial declared

FL CLEARWATER — The case against a teenager accused of draping a noose around the shoulders of a black teen at a fast food restaurant ended in a mistrial after defense attorneys said prosecutors did not disclose some evidence.

The mistrial was declared after a friend and classmate of Dionte Hall, 15, said he heard the accused, Louis J. Giannola IV, 19, utter a racial slur against Hall. Defense attorney Sami Thalji argued the friend, Jason Cantone, never made that allegation in his deposition and state prosecutors never disclosed it.

Man responsible for fire

MT HELENA — A civil jury found that Brent Johnson's disposal of charcoal briquettes made him liable for a 2000 wildfire that destroyed two homes and other buildings. Johnson and his insurance company, State Farm, are liable for more than \$500,000 in damages. Insurers Pacific Indemnity and Federal Insurance used to recover what they paid to three homeowners after the 9,400-acre blaze.

Larceny charge added

VT BENNINGTON — A Pomona man who already was charged with armed assault for taking the clothes off the back of his victim now faces a new felony charge of larceny.

If convicted of both charges, Bryan Comi could face up to 20 years in prison.

The charges are related to an incident where Comi, who told police he had been smoking crack all night, allegedly held a man at gunpoint and took his wallet, keys and clothing from him.

The gun was later discovered to be a piece of plastic tubing, according to police reports. The victim told authorities that Comi told him he was a police officer.

The victim returned to his own apartment naked before calling police.

Ground silently trembles

WA LONGVIEW — Hundreds of tiny earthquakes have been reported at Mount St. Helens, but it is unlikely they pose any hazard to anyone outside of the volcano's crater, state seismologist Tony Qamar said.

Qamar said the seismology lab at the University of Washington in Seattle is having trouble keeping up with the hundreds of tiny quakes and show no sign of letting up.

The swarms of quakes could indicate that a small amount of magma is moving into the mountain's crater, cracking the lava dome, he said.

The quakes could increase the likelihood of small rock slides from the 876-foot-tall lava dome within the mountain's crater.



Mighty lumberjack

Northern Arizona University Transportation Services Center employee Vince Moore walks beneath the Louie the Lumberjack statue he repaired following its reinstallation outside the Walkup Skydome in Flagstaff, Ariz. The 20-foot tall fiberglass statue was vandalized. He was decapitated and had his feet broken off at the ankle. The head of the ax was broken off as well.



Behind the scenes

Kyle Glover, 7, walks through the inside of a 20-foot colon that shows cancerous stages of colon tissue at the Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation's "Check Your Insides Out From Top To Bottom" in Oklahoma City.



Anxious pooch

Jug, a 10-month-old Cocker Spaniel, watches as his owner, Carmen Randle, left, shakes hands with Susan Sampson, right, of Golden Retriever Rescue of Fairbanks, Alaska, during the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test at the Allridge Dog Park in Fairbanks.



Steer jumping Lee Graves jumps his steer during the the Pendleton Round-Up in Pendleton, Ore.



Twisting icebreaker From left, Jacob Jenkins, Ramone Robinson, Nelson Miller and Tairisha Sawyer play a giant game of Twister in the Goshen Lounge of the Morris University Center on the Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville campus.



Stop, don't splatter! A grasshopper rests on the windshield of a car stopped along Highway 98 near Vaughn, Mont.



Soothing sun bath Derek Carney catches some sun on Edgewater Beach in Cleveland.



Teen held in sword attack

TX HOUSTON — A sword fight has claimed the life of a 42-year-old man and injured an elderly woman, according to authorities who are holding a teenager following the attack.

A Harris County sheriff's homicide investigator said Jose Alberto Martinez, 18, was charged with murder and aggravated assault. Martinez was jailed in lieu of \$40,000 in bail.

The fight broke out when Martinez was drinking beer with his neighbor Gabriel Flores at a trailer park.

Sgt. James Parker said Martinez, who had taken the 2-foot-long sword from his residence earlier in the evening to show it to his neighbor, allegedly stabbed Flores multiple times.

Martinez was also accused of striking the victim's mother in the head with the sword. The mother's name was not immediately available. Parker said Flores' family members managed to seize the sword from Martinez.

Hefty robbery

FL TAMPA — The "Beer Belly Bandit" has struck again after a 10-month break, adding to the dozens of bank robberies he has committed in Florida since 2000.

The robber, known for his bulging midsection, hit a bank again, pulling a gun on two tellers. It was the first robbery he had committed since November, when he held up a bank in Sarasota, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement said.

The amount stolen was not disclosed.

Rough counselors fired

CA STOCKTON — Six counselors at a high-security juvenile prison have been fired after an investigation found that two of them used excessive force during a fight with two inmates, and the four others falsified reports about the beating.

The fight, videotaped at the N.A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility near Stockton, began between the two youths and two counselors.

On the videotape, broadcast around the country, the two counselors continued to beat the two youths after they were subdued, and other counselors joined in.

Dave Darchuk, president of the counselors' union, said they were acting in self-defense. The six have appealed their firing.

Great white shark tagged

MA FALMOUTH — Marine researchers tagged a 15-foot great white shark off Cape Cod, the first time a great white has been outfitted with a satellite tracking device in the Atlantic.

The shark, first spotted near the Elizabeth Islands, may have had difficulty navigating its way back to the open ocean, said Gregory Skomal, a shark specialist with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries.

Skomal used a six-foot spear to attach the tag to the shark's dorsal fin near Hadley Harbor, off Nauset Island.

The shark has apparently spent several days in the somewhat en-

closed area framed by Woods Hole, Nauset Island, and two smaller islands, Uncataena and Nonamesset.

Officials hoped the shark would be able to leave the area on its own.

Year-round ice rink

KS TOPEKA — Topeka will soon have a year-round public ice rink after the City Council agreed unanimously to transfer a city-owned parking lot to a nonprofit group. The Topeka Ice program funded a majority of the project through community fund-raising.

Construction could begin as early as next spring.

More whooping cough

MI LANSING — The number of cases of whooping cough reported in Michigan are up more than 57 percent from this time last year, state health officials say. Ninety-nine cases were reported by the end of August with several more under investigation, according to the Michigan Department of Community Health. That's up from 63 reported for the same period in 2003.

Financial scandal

NH ACWORTH — At first, town government officials found about \$6,800 missing from the clerk's office.

Now, it's more like \$224,550.

Acworth selectmen have written to the town government's insurance company, the Local Government Center Property-Liability Trust of Concord, filing a claim for reimbursement of the stolen money.

"The information provided to us indicates a trend of missing funds going back to 1986," selectmen wrote in their insurance claim. "The town clerk was first elected in 1977 and it is likely that the theft started out with smaller amounts prior to 1987."

Brenda G. Longley, the town clerk for 27 years and the only employee in the clerk's office, resigned after a discussion with Mason and Rich, an accounting firm in Concord. In her resignation letter, Longley said, "I really have no idea what happened."

Student chokes to death

GA ATLANTA — A Midway Elementary student who fell unconscious after choking on a hot dog in the school cafeteria has died, officials said. Arely Rodriguez, 9, and some friends apparently were joking about who could be the fastest at eating a hot dog, witnesses said. A school nurse successfully tried to dislodge the food. The child never regained consciousness.

Hannity waives fee

UT OREM — Conservative commentator Sean Hannity's appearance at Utah Valley State College will be financed in part by the campaign of GOP gubernatorial candidate Jon Huntsman Jr. Hannity's speech is billed as providing balance to the appearance of documentary filmmaker Michael Moore. Hannity will waive his standard \$100,000 speaker's fee.

Stories and photos from wire services.

FACES



Merv Griffin, 79, who created the game show "Jeopardy!" in 1963 and wrote its brief, unforgettable theme song, Griffin has not met contestant Ken Jennings, who has become a celebrity as the show's longest-running and richest champion.

He created 'Jeopardy!'

Who is Merv Griffin?

BY GARY GENTILE

The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Whenever he goes these days, Merv Griffin gets asked the same question: What is Ken Jennings really like? Griffin, who created "Jeopardy!" in 1963 and wrote its brief, unforgettable theme song, has not met the mild-mannered software engineer from Salt Lake City who has become a celebrity as the game show's richest champion. But he'd like to.

"I think he's great," Griffin said. "He's humble — a smart, nice kid. And I think he would like to meet the creator of 'Jeopardy!'"

Griffin, who no longer owns "Jeopardy!," credits his former wife, Ju-lann Griffin, with the brainstorm of giving contestants the answers and requiring them to respond in the form of a question.

NBC bought the idea and put the show on in prime time in 1964.

It didn't work right away. The first version of the show allowed all contestants to keep their winnings. That resulted in a dull, conservative wagering strategy.



Jennings

“People love to watch and to give the answers before the contestant does. There are more heroes at home than on the screen.”

Merv Griffin

"Jeopardy!" creator

"No one bet on 'Final Jeopardy,'" Griffin said. "It almost killed the show."

So the rule was changed to allow only the winner to go home with cash.

Griffin said he had to battle the network brass over using the term "daily double." NBC's censors thought the phrase, which is also used at race tracks, would promote gambling.

Griffin also established the show's most famous rule, limiting a champion's run to five straight wins.

"We thought it would be boring," to allow a contestant to just keep winning, he said. That rule was changed at the beginning of last season, leading to the record-winning streak by Jennings.

Asked if he still thought having a long-running champion was boring, Griffin said, "We'll see."

As of Sept. 17, the streak by Jennings stood at 48 shows, with winnings of more than \$1.6 million. (Ken Jennings will return Oct. 4 after a two-week hiatus for the Tournament of Champions.) But a report recently on TV Week's Web site that the run ended with a show that will air later

this fall. A network spokesman refused to confirm or deny the report.

Griffin sold "Jeopardy!" and his other creation, "Wheel of Fortune," to Coca-Cola Corp. in 1986 for \$250 million. Coca-Cola then owned Columbia Pictures, which is now owned by Sony Corp.

"Jeopardy!" is filmed in Sony's studio in Culver City.

Griffin, 79, continues to develop new projects, including television pilots and feature films, from his Beverly Hills offices. He holds court behind his large desk, surrounded by his many Emmys, his Shar-Pei dog Charlie Chan at his feet.

Griffin said he watches "Jeopardy!" every day to see how Jennings is faring. He doesn't believe people will lose interest in the show after the streak ends.

"People love to watch and to give the answers before the contestant does," Griffin said. "There are more heroes at home than on the screen."

And when Jennings does lose? "I hope they have a ceiling full of balloons ready," Griffin said. "What he has done is simply amazing."

Victoria's Secret lingerie tour

The Victoria's Secret Angels will be hitting the road for the lingerie retailer's first nationwide tour: Angels Across America.

Tyra Banks, Gisele Bündchen, Heidi Klum, Adriana Lima and Alessandra Ambrosio will present the 2004 holiday gift collection in New York on Nov. 8, then travel to Chicago (Nov. 9), Las Vegas (Nov. 11) and Los Angeles (Nov. 12).

In Las Vegas, the Angels will be inducted into the Hard Rock Hall of Fame. Outside the Bellagio Hotel, the renowned fountain show will welcome the models with pink water.

The tour will end in Los Angeles in a Victoria's Secret version of the Hollywood Walk of Fame ceremony.

A one-hour special documenting the tour will air Dec. 13 on VH1.



Banks

Nimoy to hit air waves

Former "Star Trek" actor Leonard Nimoy is beaming onto the radio.

"American Jewish Music From the Milken Archive With Leonard Nimoy" will explore sacred and secular Jewish music from the Milken Archive of Jewish American Music during 13 two-hour episodes on WFTM Radio Network stations and XM Satellite Radio.

The series will air beginning Sept. 30.

"I grew up speaking Yiddish at home in Boston and hearing this music during services at synagogue and at social events where my uncle and four cousins played klezmer music," Nimoy said in a statement Friday. "This program and this music makes me feel very much at home."

The series' musical selections will range from biblical epics set to music by Kurt Weill, Jewish legends in tone poems, film scores and operas, symphonies and concertos based on Jewish themes, Yiddish theater songs and world premieres of recently discovered Jewish compositions by Leonard Bernstein.

Blue Man Group headed to Las Vegas

Blue Man Group is on the move.

The show's new home will be a custom-built, 1,750-seat theater at The Venetian hotel-casino, officials announced.

"We are very excited to bring Blue Man Group to The Venetian," said Sheldon G. Adelson, chairman of the board of Las Vegas Sands Inc., parent company of The Venetian. "It is one of the most creative and innovative shows ever produced and it is immensely popular across the world."

Blue Man Group is a sort of new-age vaudeville show featuring musicians with makeshift instruments who are equal part performance artists who paint and toilet paper their audience. The show opened at the Luxor hotel-casino in March 2000 and will continue there through Sept. 15, 2005. Blue Man will open at The Venetian in October 2005.

Opium references censored from song

Malaysian censors have banned a song by Hong Kong pop diva Faye Wong because of a line that talks about opium smoking, a Sony music spokesman said.

The censorship board told the record company to pull the Cantonese song "In the Name of Love" from the album "To Love," which was released last November, because it included the line "opium is warm and sweet."

The song was included on a list of banned books and music released in August by the ministry.

"All the copies in the market now won't have this track," the spokesman said. He said more than 10,000 copies have been sold locally.

The song is also banned in China, where censors said the lyrics were too decadent and would adversely influence the health of young people.

Wong was born in mainland China, but lives in Hong Kong. She's long been one of the top-selling Chinese female vocalists, and performed at a sold-out concert in Kuala Lumpur in April.



Wong

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Cold frnt. Warm frnt. Trough Occluded fr. Staty. front Low High

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

[illegible][illegible]

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time

Legend:

- TEMPERATURE:** High, Low, Showers, Rain, Tornado, Hail, Snow, Ice
- FRONTS:** Cold, Warm, Stationary
- Weather Symbols:** Sunny, Partly Cloudy, Cloudy

Check our Relocation Guide
every Saturday to find
Realtors at your new station.

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

Horoscope

The Pisces moon gives way to the Aries moon late in the evening. You'll probably start out with a temperate, mature and wise attitude early in the day, but as evening nears, you'll likely feel the impulse to simply have it your way, no matter the cost. Stay off the car lots and out of the time-share offices. Good salespeople could get the best of you.

Joyce Jillson



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(September 27) The simple decisions you make this year create a huge impact. Your year takes many exciting turns just because you decide it will. Over the next three months, you know what you want out of a relationship, and you get it. Signs that click with you are Scorpio and Sagittarius. Career moves in December put you on the track toward wealth.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You're balancing the many dimensions of your life beautifully and paying particular attention to your spiritual self. That's why synchronic events magically open doors! Why shouldn't your life be filled with this kind of luck?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You may feel out of communication with someone even though the two of you speak to one another regularly. Getting back in touch will be key to your productivity, since part of your brain is working on this issue constantly.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

You're after immediate results, and you'll get what you expect. So keep expectations high, and let the people around you know exactly what they are. By describing what you need in detail, you're more likely to get it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You're working on creating an environment that supports rich abundance. That means there's enough room to put things and everything you've already got is well maintained and organized.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You're a visionary and will be drawn to

bring ethereal concepts into the real world. Inspiring impossibilities spur you to create your own unfeasible outcomes. To get to your goal, you need the help of others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

What others believe to be a lost cause could turn out to be a real winner if someone like you gets behind it. You find funding where you least expect it. Develop your voice — it is a key to better opportunities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

You're all about efficiency now. Get it done, get it right, and get it out. Your manner is impressive to higher-ups. Tonight, get the feeling that you're reading yourself for something big — you are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Profound feelings arise from seemingly rut-of-the-mill activities. Every activity and thought contributes to your destiny. Overbearing personalities around you are all fighting for the same thing — respect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You're naturally driven, but you've got a cheerful way of conveying your drive. The power of your personality influences people. At work, others may be confused, but you clearly see the bottom line.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Weird complications are featured — at least this provides a colorful story for later, and you'll be fascinating entertainment when you tell it! The lesson is, you can't take things at face value. Get the whole story.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)

Life without fun makes you a bore; get your share! Brainstorm about adding value to your leisure time. Put something frivolous in your appointment book, and you'll feel much better about all your more serious appointments.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Your style shines through — you want to go even further with your individual trademark, though. You don't have to spend big to make your statement. You can start by simply getting rid of excess.

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



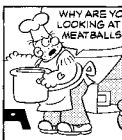
Cathy



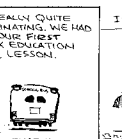
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



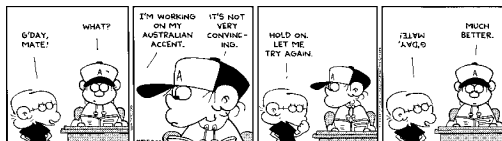
Red Rover



Better or Worse



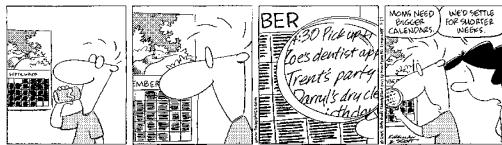
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



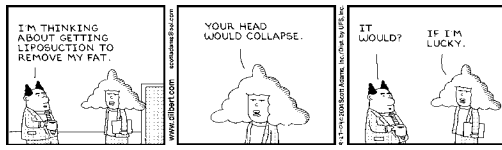
Spider Man



Blondie



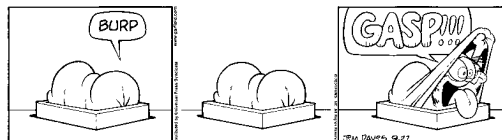
Dilbert



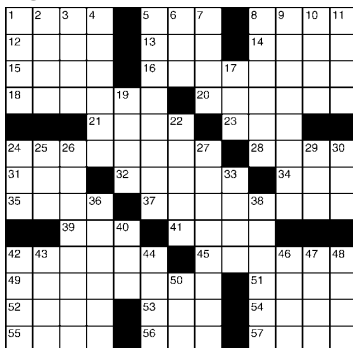
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Traffic noise
- 5 Witnessed
- 8 Sail support
- 12 Exceptional
- 13 Altar affirmative
- 14 "GWTFW" acreage
- 15 Unrepaid
- 16 In sequence
- 18 Rock duo, — Dan
- 20 Catch with a ruse
- 21 Reveille's opposite
- 23 Fashion designer
- 24 Top of the angelic hierarchy
- 28 Strike breaker
- 31 Expert
- 32 Blender setting
- 34 — moment
- 35 Ness, e.g.
- 37 Pepper or York
- 39 Erstwhile acorn
- 41 Highlander
- 42 Palate
- 43 Optical illusion
- 49 Did maintenance on
- 51 Medal earner
- 52 Relaxation
- 53 Exist
- 54 Send forth
- 55 Coaster
- 56 More, to Manuel
- 57 Houston campus

Down

- 1 Support group?
- 2 Bridge position
- 3 Ontario's neighbor
- 4 Pre-euro Spanish money
- 5 Rock-and-roll legend?
- 6 Citric
- 7 Quencher
- 8 Sported
- 9 Rank
- 9 Heaton of "Everybody Loves Raymond"
- 10 Met melody
- 11 Freeway egress
- 17 Officeholders
- 19 Reindeer herder, maybe
- 22 Paddock parents
- 24 Bando of baseball
- 25 "The Name of the Rose" author
- 26 Source of help
- 27 CLK55, for one
- 29 Columnist
- 30 Airborne vampire
- 33 Hollywood clasher
- 36 Split in two
- 38 One who makes a good impression?
- 40 Chiang — shek
- 42 Works with
- 43 Scallopini
- 44 ingredient
- 45 Can game
- 46 50 percent (Pref.)
- 47 Leif's father
- 48 Memorization method
- 50 Historic period

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-27

CRYPTOQUIP

P UNEEUJQ PB KPXBV AQ
 UZPS BVZB Z IZSZI
 ULIQQM LJNRS XPGQ

UJKQJMQ ARPE UQIGPLQ.
 Saturday's Cryptoquip: I LIKE TO BELIEVE A
 SQUIRREL'S LIVING QUARTERS COULD BE
 CALLED A NUTCRACKER SUITE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals P

Singh uneased, but moves into lead

The Associated Press

FARMINGTON, Pa. — Vijay Singh is making it look easy by winning tournament after tournament, and millions upon millions of dollars, while chasing Tiger Woods' single-season money record.

A slow-lifting fog and slow-moving players conspired Saturday to make for one of Singh's toughest days in weeks, yet his ability to turn bad lies into good shots helped him to an even-par 72 that kept him in the 84 Lumber Classic lead.

"I didn't play as well as I did the first two days," said Singh, who started 64-68 at the 7,471-yard Mystic Rock course. "My rhythm wasn't there. I was struggling to find it all day. But I still lead by two, so I'm not that disappointed."

Repeatedly following poor shots with exceptional ones on a day when some of his best play came merely to save par, Singh finished at 12-under 204 to lead Chris DiMarco by two shots and Jonathan Byrd

and Matt Gogel by three entering Sunday's final round.

Singh can break Woods' single-season money record of \$91.1 million set in 2000 by winning the \$756,000 first prize, or, if he plays in two late-season no-cut tournaments that offer guaranteed money, by finishing second.

Heavy fog shrouded the mountain-top resort course for the third straight morning, forcing a delay in play and the decision to go out in threesomes rather than twosomes. That meant some players, including Singh, started earlier than expected so the finish could be televised.

Play lagged all day as a result, with Singh, DiMarco and Ben Curtis needing 5 hours and 20 minutes for their round — about 80 minutes slower than usual. That's why Singh wasn't surprised when the quality of play dropped off late in the afternoon, too.

DiMarco, one of only three U.S. team members competing after last weekend's Ryder Cup wupout in suburban Detroit, repeatedly tried to make a move at Singh.

But Singh held him off each time despite being in the 70s for only the second time in 11 rounds.

Lindley overtakes Inkster with 7 birdies

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Leta Lindley had seven birdies to finish at 6-under 65, good for a one-shot lead over two-time champion Juli Inkster at the LPGA Longs Drugs Challenge.

Lindley, a 32-year-old pro looking for her first tour victory, birdied five holes on the back nine to finish at 14-under 199.

Stadler trying for third straight win

CARY, N.C. — Craig Stadler is already atop the Champions Tour money list, and he's poised to become the first tour player in more than six years to win three consecutive tournaments.

Stadler scored a 4-under 68 for a four-stroke lead after two rounds of the \$1.8 million SAS Championship. Stadler birdied five of his final 12 holes, leaving him at 133 on the par-72, 7129-yard Prestonwood Country Club course.



Vijay Singh shot an even par 72 to take the lead at the 84 Lumber Classic in Farmington, Pa., on Saturday.

Stenson captures Heritage title

WOBBURN, England — Henrik Stenson of Sweden shot a 6-under-par 66 on Sunday to win the Heritage at Woburn by four strokes over Carlos Rodiles of Spain. The 28-year-old, who led going into the final round, birdied four successive holes beginning at the 14th to clinch his victory.

Jones Jr. knocked out, boxing future in doubt

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Glen Johnson knocked out Roy Jones Jr. in the ninth round Saturday night to retain his IBF light heavyweight title and cast more doubt on the future of one of boxing's most storied fighters.

Jones lay on his back moving only slightly for almost four minutes after he was felled by an over-the-right, followed by a short left. Trainers filled a towel with ice and slid it under Jones' head as he lay on the canvas, but he had trouble opening his eyes. Jones, 35, finally walked out of the ring with help from his trainers. Jones left the arena in an ambulance and was taken to the Regional Medical Center at Memphis for a checkup. He walked to the ambulance without comment.

The defeat left Jones' once-impressive career in tatters.

Jones turned pro after the 1988 Olympics, where it was widely perceived he was robbed of the gold medal. He has won titles at classes ranging from middleweight to heavyweight.

Last November, he captured the light heavyweight crown from Antonio Tarver, but he was defeated by a crashing left jab from Tarver in their rematch in May.

Tarver joined Johnson at his news conference, saying he regarded Jones' career as over.

"I want to see the man go on and enjoy his life after boxing," Tarver said. "We don't need to see Roy Jones go through the things he went through tonight, that's what he went through on May 15. Let the man ride off into the sunset."

Tarver said he was ready to fight Johnson for the IBF light heavyweight title, and Johnson was open to the idea.

Truex cruises to fifth Busch win

DOVER, Del. — Points leader Martin Truex Jr. bided his time, took the lead with 12 laps to go and drove to an easy victory in

Sports briefs

the NASCAR Busch series race Saturday at Dover International Speedway.

He won in the Stacker 200 was the fifth of the year for Truex, tying him with rookie Kyle Busch and Greg Biffle for the most on the circuit. It also was the fifth in the career of Truex and increased his points lead over Busch to 152 after 27 of 34 races.

He took the lead from pole-sitter Casey Kahne, Nestlé Cup rookie sensation, on the third of 200 laps at The Monster Mile and led the next 20 laps around the high-banked concrete oval. Kahne was back in the lead for 57 laps, but was not a factor when his car faded in the second half of the \$1 million race.

Bourdais slips by Junquiera

LAS VEGAS — Sebastian Bourdais held off Newman-Haas teammate Bruno Junquiera in a side-by-side battle to win the Las Vegas 400 on Saturday night.

Bourdais, the series points leader, took the lead 58 laps into the 167-lap event. By the 83rd lap, Junquiera was moving in, and with 20 laps remaining, the wheel-to-wheel racing began in the inaugural Champ Car event at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Bourdais took the faster low lane, but Junquiera stayed with him, leading by inches with as few as three laps to go around the 1.9-mile superspeedway.

Bourdais prevailed by 0.666 seconds, barely a car length, in the sixth-closest Champ Car finish since 1979. It was his sixth victory of the season.

Pole-sitter Patrick Carpentier held on for third, 4.091 seconds behind Bourdais. Rodolfo Lavín finished fourth, 6.27 seconds behind, and Jimmy Vasser rounded out the top five, 6.302 seconds behind.



Serena Williams celebrates her China Open victory on Sunday.

Barichello locks up F1 second

SHANGHAI, China — Rubens Barrichello clinched second place in Formula One on Sunday when he won the inaugural China Grand Prix by edging Jensen Button by about a second.

Ferrari teammate Michael Schumacher, his seventh drivers' championship already secure, was 12th. He spun out and later blew a tire, finishing more than a lap behind.

Barrichello won his second straight race and the ninth of his career before a crowd of about 200,000 at the new Shanghai International Circuit.

S. Williams wins China Open

BELLING — Serena Williams erased a match point in the second set and came all the way back to beat U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsov 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 Sunday at the China Open for her first title in six months.

"I just never gave up. I really didn't want to lose today," the top-seeded Williams said. "I haven't won a title since March, which really isn't like me."

Williams ended Kuznetsov's 14-match winning streak. The second-seeded Russian won her previous two events: the U.S. Open and a tournament in Bali last week.

Heidelberg notches 2nd mercy-rule win

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany

— Senior quarterback T.J. Trice ran for two touchdowns and passed for a third for the second straight week Saturday as the Heidelberg Lions rolled to their second straight mercy-rule victory of the season, 40-0 over the Kaiserslautern Red Raiders.

Trice scored on runs of six and two yards and hit brother Nick with a 12-yard TD pass Saturday. For the day,

T.J. Trice completed five of eight passes for 80 yards as the Lions improved to 2-0 overall and 1-0 in Division I.

Lewis Allen, who led Heidelberg with 75 yards on nine carries, and Jordan Yakana, who recovered two fumbles, added rushing TDs against the Red Raiders. All-Europe junior lineman Brandon Simmons returned a botched punt three yards for Heidelberg's first TD. The Lions play at Wiesbaden Saturday in a matchup of the only D-I unbeaten, Kaiserslautern (0-2, 1-0) will host Lakenheath (0-1, 1-0).

In other games Saturday:

Hanau 17, Patch 14

HANAU, Germany — Marcus Fontaneu kicked a 35-yard field goal with 1:40 left in the game to keep Hanau atop the Division II-South standings at 2-0.

Malcolm Lane rushed for 168 yards and two TDs for Hanau, which posted 258 yards of total offense, all of it on the ground.

Hanau, which hosts Bitburg in a nonconference game this Saturday, was led defensively by A.J. Ford, who registered 10 tackles and batted away a potential touchdown pass in the end zone; Michael Williams, who had 11 tackles and a forced fumble; and

el Williams, who was in on 11 tackles, and Ivan James, who posted two sacks.

Patch, which hosts unbeaten Naples this Saturday, fell to 0-2 overall and in II-South despite 84 rushing yards and a TD from quarterback J.D. Lindsay. James Duhart ran for Patch's other TD.

Sigonella 29, Brussels 27

SIGONELLA, Italy — Quarterback K.J. Jones passed for two touchdowns and ran 15 yards for a decisive third score in a Division II-B game.

Jones, who had had the ball stripped from him and run in for a touchdown during Brussels' 21-point second period, atoned for the gaffe when he completed a 10-yard TD pass to Michael Petty to tie the game at 21 in the third period. In the fourth quarter, Jones ran 15 yards for the winning score.

Dustin Sampson scored the first Sigonella touchdown when he returned an interception 90 yards. Sampson picked off two passes, as did teammate B.J. Washington. Sigonella's other score came in the second quarter, when Jones hit Adam Pressnell with a 35-yard TD pass.

Lionie Ruffin scored all four Brussels TDs. In addition to stealing the ball from Jones and running it into the end zone from 10 yards out, Ruffin scored on a 30-yard run and a pair of 75-yard kickoff returns.

Fullback Jade Garth led Sigonella with 15 rushes for 116 yards. Matthew Parker gained 104 yards in 12 carries for Brussels.

Brussels (1-1 overall, 0-1 in II-B) closes out its conference schedule this Saturday when it hosts AFNORTH. The Brigands must win to keep their playoff hopes alive. Sigonella (1-1, 1-0) plays at Vicenza in a nonconference game.



Air Force quarterback Shaun Carney (5) carries the ball 47 yards to score against Utah in the second quarter Saturday. Carney scored three touchdowns, but 14th-ranked Utah had too much firepower and won 49-35.

Utes too much for Air Force

BY TODD JACOBSON

The Gazette

SALT LAKE CITY — Air Force was the first team to find a soft spot in 14th-ranked Utah's defense, but it was hardly enough to knock off the Utes on Saturday.

Looking for a big upset, Air Force got turned upside down 49-35 in front of a homecoming crowd of 44,043 fans at Rice-Eccles Stadium.

The Falcons grabbed an early 14-point lead and threatened to bash the Utes' Bowl Championship Series-busting hopes, but Utah responded by reeling off 35 consecutive points to win its eighth straight game.

"Our guys didn't quit," Air Force coach Fisher DeBerry said. "We missed some tackles, but we came back and we scored and we came back and we fought until the end. I am not in anyway discouraged about this football team whatsoever."

That's because Air Force (2-2, 1-1 Mountain West) proved it could hang with Utah — at least for a little bit. The problem was the Utes (4-0, 1-0) were good as advertised.

After last year's three-overtime epic loss, Air Force's secondary provided most of the drama Saturday as it tried to contain Utah's unrelenting spread offense.

It didn't work.

Utah quarterback Alex Smith picked apart the Falcons, throwing for 260 yards and two touch-

downs, and Utes running back Marty Johnson grinded out four touchdowns and 75 yards.

The Utes accumulated 505 yards on offense, and most of it came in the final three quarters. Air Force freshman quarterback Shaun Carney had his best day, running for 95 yards and throwing for 158 more in his fourth start.

Carney accounted for four of Air Force's five touchdowns, rushing for three scores and throwing for another. Early on, he had the Falcons in position to upend a ranked opponent.

The Falcons marched 80 yards to open the game, and Carney scored on a 2-yard run for a 7-0 lead. The freshman padded the lead with a 47-yard run in the second quarter.

"I don't think Utah was used to a team coming out there attacking them and jumping on them like we did," Air Force fullback Adam Cole said. "If we learn how to sustain that I think we can beat a Utah, beat a team like that in the conference."

Utah had not trailed this season.

"I was in panic mode," Utah coach Urban Meyer said. "You can't get behind Air Force. I have been on that side of the stick before."

He didn't need to panic. He just needed to hit the offense button.

Air Force barely had time to let out a cheer before the Utes swooped out of the wild blue yonder with 35 consecutive points.

"It's hard to stop us when they don't know what to key on," Johnson said. "We can run. We can go to Paris (Warren), Steve Savoy, the receivers. Alex can throw. Alex can run. Usually a defense can't stop us because they don't know what's coming."

Utah made the score 14-7 with the first of Johnson's four touchdown runs with 9:43 left in the half, and scored on back-to-back drives — if you want to call them drives — at the end of the half to take a 21-14 lead.

Smith connected with Warren on a 65-yard touchdown pass to tie the score at 14-14, and after Anthony Butler fumbled on Air Force's first play at the Falcons' 21-yard line, it took two runs by Smith for the Utes to take a lead they never relinquished.

Fumbles proved to be especially troublesome for Air Force. After the Falcons narrowed Utah's lead to 35-28 on Carney's third touchdown run with 2:14 left in the third quarter, Air Force seemed to be driving to tie when Carney fumbled amid plenty of controversy.

Carney said he didn't fumble. Marquess Ledbetter, who recovered the fumble, said Stone Pouha clearly stripped the ball. Replays were inconclusive, though DeBerry vehemently argued the play for several minutes.

"That was crucial. Oh Lord, that was crucial," DeBerry said. "We had momentum and we were closing the gap."

Michigan capitalizes on Iowa's turnovers

BY LARRY LAGE

The Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Braylon Edwards sat on the bench and took a sip of water before he knew it was time to get back on the field.

"There's a certain kind of cheer when you get a fumble or an interception," he said.

He heard that roar often Saturday at Michigan Stadium.

The 18th-ranked Wolverines turned four turnovers into 27 points and Edwards caught six passes for a career-high 150 yards to lead Michigan to a 30-17 win over Iowa.

"We're trying to establish ourselves as a contender, not a pretender," the star receiver said.

The defending conference champion Wolverines (3-1, 1-0) won their 23rd consecutive Big Ten opener. They have won 12 straight at home since Iowa handed them their worst loss at Michigan Stadium since 1967.

Ed Hinkel's one-handed, diving TD catch on the opening drive sent the Hawkeyes (2-2, 0-1) their only lead. Hinkel's 10-yard TD midway through the fourth quarter pulled them to 30-17.

Chad Henne was 16-for-26 for 22 yards with a TD and, most importantly for Michigan, no turnovers.

Iowa's Drew Tate was 20-for-32 for 270 yards, two TDs, two interceptions and a muffed handoff that led to a fumble.

"Some stuff that they did was different than what we saw on film," Tate said. "But it was just them being athletes that made it so hard."

Michael Hart ran for 99 yards and a TD for the Wolverines.

Iowa's Jermelle Lewis was limited to 35 yards on four carries.

The Wolverines started the game ranked first in the nation with 14 takeaways and might stay on top after recovering three fumbles and intercepting two passes. They have scored 79 of 117 points through four games of turnovers.

Lloyd Carr, in his 10th season as Michigan's head coach and 25th on its staff, has never seen anything like it.

"We've had some great defenses, but we've never had a defense that has caused this many turnovers," Carr said.



Michigan receiver Braylon Edwards celebrates his first quarter touchdown against Iowa.

After Michigan cut Iowa's lead to 7-3 midway through the first quarter, the Wolverines scored the rest of their points off turnovers. They would've added another score to the total, but Hart fumbled as he lunged toward the end zone.

"They're going to tease me about it," Hart said.

Michigan scored two TDs over a 2:07 span of the second quarter to take a 16-7 lead and took a 20-point lead early in the fourth on Grant Mason's interception and 25-yard return.

Michigan cornerback Leon Hall intercepted a pass and recovered a fumble.

Iowa had won two straight against Michigan, including a 34-9 victory two years ago at Michigan Stadium, but the Hawkeyes have never won three in a row against the Wolverines.

In the first half, Edwards had four catches for 132 yards, including a 39-yard reception that fell a yard short of the end zone. He had just two catches after first downs.

Edwards, with 2,711 yards receiving, moved past Amari Toomer on Michigan's career list and trails only Anthony Carter by 365 yards.

"We did some good things, but obviously we did some things that weren't so good," Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz said. "Michigan played a huge role in that. They're an aggressive, opportunistic defense."

Backup quarterback Sexton guides Florida St. past Clemson

BY BRENT KALLESTAD

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Wyatt Sexton became an instant hit with Florida State fans and left coach Bobby Bowden with a decision to make.

Sexton threw for 162 yards and a touchdown Saturday after replacing an injured Chris Rix, and No. 8 Florida State forced five turnovers in a 41-22 victory over Clemson.

Justin Miller provided most of the Tigers' offense with two kickoff returns for touchdowns and an NCAA record 282 yards on six returns.

Bowden doesn't like quarterback contro-

versies and he said he won't take long to decide which quarterback will start against North Carolina next week.

Rix, who has started 37 games for Bowden, has never been a fan favorite due largely to some erratic performances on and off the field, and an 0-5 record against archrival Miami.

Sexton was also involved in the most recent Florida State quarterback controversy — two years ago — when he was replaced as the starter for four games by Adrian McPherson. But Rix regained the job after McPherson was kicked off the team.

This time it was an injury that took Rix out of the game. He sprained his right ankle late in the first quarter and was able

to return, but spent the rest of the game on the sideline watching Sexton.

"I would love to have the opportunity to start," Sexton said. "I would like to have the team in my hands."

Sexton, a redshirt sophomore, completed 17 of 26 passes with a 47-yard scoring pass to Chauncey Stovall — the Seminoles' first TD pass of the season.

"It was a perfect throw," said Stovall, who caught a career-high seven passes for 96 yards. "Wyatt just sat back in the pocket and waited and I did my thing."

Rix told Bowden that he was ready to go, but the coaches wanted to give Sexton a chance with the game on the line.

"I'm happy the coaches had confidence

in me and let me show what I can do," Sexton said. "When I first got in I was extremely nervous. It took me awhile to get my composure."

Miller's two TDs covered 97 and 86 yards. His second touchdown brought Clemson to within 24-22 midway through the third period following a safety.

"It was a great individual performance by a player who just refused to quit," Clemson coach Tommy Bowden said.

The Seminoles (2-1, 1-1) avenged last year's 26-10 loss at Clemson and gave Florida State's Bowden a 5-1 record in matchups against his son.

It was also the elder Bowden's 34th career victory, the most ever by a Division I-A coach.

Texas, Benson put on Rice's defense

The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Cedric Benson has never had so much fun so early in a season.

Texas' senior tailback ran for 189 yards and a touchdown — his third straight game of more than 180 yards in the nation's top rushing attack — and the Longhorns rolled over Rice 35-13 Saturday night.

"This is fun," said Benson, a slow starter in his first three seasons but who now ranks behind only Ricky Williams and Earl Campbell as Texas' career rushing leaders.

"I was really seeing the field," he said. "You can't say enough about the offensive line. Those guys paved the way for us and we're all enjoying it together."

Benson did most of his damage in the first half, piling up 169 yards on 18 carries. He regularly broke tackles at the line of scrimmage to get into open space in the second half. His second run, for 57 yards to set up the first of Vince Young's three touchdown passes.

"We're a power running team right now," Texas coach Mack Brown said. "Cedric was tremendous."

The Longhorns (3-0) have won 37 of the last 38 meetings with Rice (2-1).

The latest win was steady if unspectacular and just the kind of game Texas wanted as the Longhorns use the win to look ahead to their Oct. 9 matchup against No. 2 Oklahoma in Dallas.

"We felt like we got what we needed," Brown said. "To stay undefeated was the most important thing coming out of tonight."

Brown's only worry was how long to play his star tailback and risk injury. Benson got the ball only two times in the second half before heading to the bench.

Benson is the first Texas back to rush for more than 100 yards in the first three games of the season since Ricky Williams in 1996.

Rice came in with the nation's No. 1 rushing defense, giving up just 7.5 yards per game in wins over pass-happy Houston and Hawaii.

Reality set in quickly against Texas. Benson had 126 yards in the first quarter.

"We feel we can run against anybody, game in and game out," offensive tackle Justin Blacklock said.

"They really swamped us," said Rice coach Ken Hatfield. "They are big, they are very physical and they made a lot of physical happen in the running game."

No. 6 West Virginia 45, James Madison 10: Rasheed Marshall threw two touchdown passes to Chris Henry to lead West Virginia to a home win.

West Virginia's defense scored one touchdown and set up another as the Mountaineers (4-0) remained unbeaten heading into a showdown next week with former Big East rival Virginia Tech.

James Madison (2-1) has been outscored 135-10 in its last three

Top 25

contests against I-A teams and is 3-13 all-time against them.

The Ducks limited the Mountaineers to 171 yards on the ground, 140 yards below their average.

No. 9 Auburn 33, The Citadel 3: Jason Campbell passed for 194 yards in the first half and Auburn coasted at home in a breather before a pair of high-stakes contests.

The Tigers (4-0) had no problem overcoming a slow sloppy play against the Division I-A Bulldogs (0-2) in a tuneup for next week's showdown at No. 11 Tennessee. They have a six-game winning streak for the first time since opening the 1997 season 6-0.

Auburn outgained The Citadel (0-2) 593-169 in total yards, coming off a 10-9 win over LSU. Carnell Williams gained 95 yards on 22 carries, all in the first half, but lost a pair of fumbles in the Bulldogs' territory. He had a 1-yard touchdown run.

No. 11 Tennessee 42, Louisiana Tech 17: Erik Ange threw three touchdown passes and Cedric Houston ran for 160 yards and more scores to lead host Tennessee.

The Volunteers (3-0) started slow but broke open the game in the second quarter.

Ange again got the bulk of the playing time while alternating with fellow freshman Brent Schaeffer. Ange finished 10-for-15 for 198 yards, and Gerald Riggs had a career-high 116 yards on 16 carries.

The Bulldogs (2-2) lost starting quarterback Donald Allen at the end of his first series with an injury. Matt Kubik, who started the season opener, replaced him and was intercepted twice.

No. 12 Virginia 31, Syracuse 10: In Charlottesville, Marques Hagans had 283 total yards with two touchdown runs and a TD pass to lead Virginia ahead of a 27-yard run for his 10th touchdown of the season for the Cavaliers (4-0).

The Orange (2-2), 51-0 losers to Purdue in their season opener, drove 68 yards for a field goal on their opening possession, then managed just 41 more yards for four possessions and trailed 21-3 at half.

Hagans had scoring runs of 59 and 27 yards in the first half and finished with 81 yards on six carries.

No. 13 LSU 51, Mississippi State 0: Alley Broussard ran for a career-high three touchdowns in the first 17 minutes and LSU held Mississippi State to seven first downs and 130.

The Tigers (3-1, 1-1 Southeastern Conference) rolled up 594 yards and led 40-0 at half.

The LSU defense had four interceptions, recovered a fumble and scored a touchdown.

The Bulldogs (1-3, 0-2), who are rebuilding under first-year coach Sylvester Croom, have lost seven straight in Tiger Stadium and 12 of 13 overall against LSU.

No. 19 Minnesota 43, Northwestern 17: Laurence Maroney had a 50-yard touchdown run and finished with 145 yards rushing to lead Minnesota at home.

Bryan Cupito, who completed passes to eight different receivers, threw for 155 yards and two TDs for the Gophers (4-0, 1-0) in the Big 10 opener for both teams.

No. 20 Wisconsin 16, Penn State 3: Matt Bernstein built his way to a career-best 123 yards after replacing an ineffective and injured Booker Stanley to help Wisconsin hold off visiting Penn State.

The Badgers (1-0 Big Ten) held their opponents out of the end zone for the third time in four games and ended the month 4-0 despite the absence of star tailback Anthony Davis (eye) for the last 1 1/2 weeks.

The loss was costly for the Nittany Lions (2-2, 0-1), who lost their top two offensive weapons in the first quarter when quarterback Zach Mills injured his right arm on Penn State's first series and his replacement, Michael Robinson, suffered a concussion and was taken off the field by ambulance.

No. 22 Arizona State 27, Oregon State 14: Lamar Williams intercepted two passes and Jordan Hill recovered two fumbles in Arizona's home victory over the Beavers.

Oregon State was the mistake-prone Oregon State in the Pac-10 opener for both teams. The Sun Devils' Emmanuel Franklin saved an Oregon State touchdown by knocking the ball loose from Oregon State's Joe Newton, then recovering the ball for a touchdown — a play that turned the game around late in the first half.

Hakim Hill, playing with a broken bone in his right forearm, scored on a 3-yard run and Andrew Walter threw a 17-yard touchdown pass to Zach Miller for the Sun Devils (4-0, 1-0) off to their best start since going 11-0 in the 1996 regular season.

Oregon State (1-3, 0-1) lost for the 16th consecutive time at Arizona State.

No. 23 Maryland 55, Duke 21: Joe Statham threw four touchdowns to offset a host of mistakes Saturday, and visiting Maryland piled up 685 yards in total offense.

Vernon Davis caught three of the TDs — the first of his career — and Rich Person had the other as Maryland (3-1, 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) won its fifth straight over the Blue Devils (0-4, 0-2).

No. 24 Louisville 34, North Carolina 0: Eric Shelton ran for three touchdowns and visiting Louisville earned its second shutout of the season.

Shelton rushed for 86 yards to lead the Cardinals, who improved to 3-0 for the second straight season under coach Bobby Petrino.



Taylor Stubblefield (21) celebrates beating Illinois' Matt Sinclair deep for a touchdown that gave Purdue a 38-23 fourth-quarter lead.

Orton, Stubblefield connect for Purdue

BY JIM PAUL

The Associated Press

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — When Purdue quarterback Kyle Orton called an audible on third-and-8, receiver Taylor Stubblefield had a better idea. He yelled at Orton, who got the message and found Stubblefield on a down-and-out for a 34-yard touchdown.

The play gave the Boilermakers a 15-point lead in the fourth quarter, and they held on to beat Illinois 38-30 on Saturday.

"I audibled to a different play, but he wanted to run something different," Orton said. "I have enough trust in him to say 'OK, run what you want' and he ran it, and it was a great route and a great play."

The TD pass was one of four thrown by Orton, who completed 32 of 50 passes for 366 yards and was not intercepted for the third straight game. Stubblefield finished with 11 catches for 115 yards, said the touchdown play didn't come out of nowhere.

"We had talked about it on the sidelines, so I gave him another signal and just ran to the ball," Stubblefield said, demonstrating an 'OK' sign with his fingers.

The Boilermakers (3-0, 1-0) won their eighth straight Big Ten opener.

Illinois (2-2, 0-1) pulled within 38-30 when Jon Butcher hit Jason Davis out of the backfield on a 26-yard TD pass with 4:42 left. The Illini got the ball back with 45 seconds to go, but they were out of timeouts and Butcher fumbled the ball away on second down.

Orton also had scoring passes of 2 and 5 yards to Stubblefield and 49 yards to Brandon Jones as the Boilermakers rolled up 515 yards.

Orton was particularly effective on third down, completing 12 passes for first down yardage.

"He did a great job of managing the game and executing the offense," Purdue coach Joe Tiller said. "We're always looking for perfection, but he played awfully well once again."

Butcher threw three touchdown passes for the Illini, who put themselves in a hole early by fumbling a reverse on the game's first play. Receiver Ade Akeyanu bobbled the handoff from Butcher and Bobby Iwuchukwu recovered at the 5, leading to a Orton's 2-yard TD toss to Stubblefield.

Akeyanu broke his left fibula on the fumble and will miss at least six weeks, Illinois coach Ron Turner said.

"It was a bad handoff," Butcher said. "If that would've never happened, we would have had a lot better chance."

Butcher completed 22 of 37 passes for 215 yards as the Illini put up 390 yards of offense. E.B. Halsey ran for 83 yards on 15 carries and Davis rushed eight times for 48 yards and caught five passes for 45 yards for Illinois.

Illinois battled back with the help of special teams. A 72-yard kickoff return by Pierre Thomas helped set up Butcher's 5-yard touchdown toss to tight end Anthony McClellan that tied it at 10 in the first quarter.

But Orton led the Boilermakers on a 13-play, 73-yard drive on the next series, including a 31-yard completion to Kyle Ingraham on third-and-21. Orton ran the final yard himself to give Purdue a 17-10 lead.

Purdue went up 24-13 in the second quarter when Orton found his tailback Jones wide open for a 49-yard TD pass.

"They just played straight man-to-man with no safety help," Orton said. "We just checked a little go route for Brandon out of the backfield and he was wide open. A good play and good catch."

Jones caught seven balls for 95 yards and carried 15 times for 77 yards for Purdue.

Illinois missed a chance to pull within a point early in the third quarter when Iwuchukwu blocked Steve Weatherford's 45-yard field goal attempt. Weatherford was successful from 48 yards out and Jason Reda added field goals of 22 and 24 yards.

Penant races tighten on West coast

Feliz's grand slam carries Giants within 1½ games of NL West lead

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The San Francisco Giants showed they can win even the biggest games without Barry Bonds' bat.

Pedro Feliz hit a tiebreaking grand slam with two outs in the eighth inning for his fourth hit and the Giants helped their play-off chances Saturday with a 9-5 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

San Francisco moved within 1½ games of the first-place Dodgers in the NL West and a half-game behind Chicago in the wild-card race. The Dodgers and Giants played four more times, including the final three games of the season next weekend at Dodger Stadium.

Feliz sent an 0-1 pitch from Yhency Brazoban (3-1) over the left-field wall for his second career slam and 21st homer of the year. He also hit a grand slam June 11, 2003, at Chicago.

Scott Eyre (2-2) pitched the eighth for San Francisco and Ray Durham homered and hit an RBI double as the Giants bounced back after losing the opener of this crucial three-game series 3-2 on Friday night.

Bonds matched his career high with five walks, three of them intentional.

Milton Bradley's solo homer in the sixth made it 5-5.

The Dodgers played without first baseman Shawn Green, who spent the day observing the Jewish holiday Yom Kippur.

Mets 4, Cubs 3 (11): Victor Diaz hit a tying, three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning, and Craig Brazell's first major league home run in the 11th gave host New York a stunning victory over Chicago.

Brazell, who entered in the 11th as part of a double switch, led off the bottom half by lining a pitch from Kent Mercker (3-1)

over the wall in right, ending Chicago's five-game winning streak.

The Cubs appeared to be cruising to their 14th victory in 17 games behind 7½ shutout innings from Mark Prior and a two-run homer by Todd Walker. Diaz hit his second career homer off closer LaTroy Hawkins to tie it 3-3.

Sammy Sosa, in a 5-of-38 slump, struck out in his first four at-bats and then grounded into a double play. He left eight runners on base — five in scoring position.

Joe Seo (5-10) got the victory. **Brewers 8, Astros 0:** Wes Obermueller (6-8) pitched a six-hitter for his first career shutout and Milwaukee damaged Houston's playoff chances. The Astros received 2½ games behind Chicago in the NL wild-card race, wasting an opportunity to gain ground.

Cardinals 10, Rockies 6: John Mabry hit a three-run home and Roger Cedeno added a two-run shot for visiting St. Louis. Jason Irvin grounded out one out for his NL-leading 46th save.

Phillies 4, Expos 3 (10): Mike Lieberthal hit a go-ahead single in the 10th inning and Ryan Howard added a run-scoring double for visiting Philadelphia.

Padres 6, Diamondbacks 5: Ryan Klesko hit a go-ahead, two-run double off Chad Durbin (1-1) in the seventh inning and finished with four RBIs. Todd Hotson got four outs to reach 40 saves for the sixth time but the first since 2001.

Braves 1, Marlins 0: Mike Hampton (2-0) gave NL East champion Atlanta another reason to celebrate, pitching seven scoreless innings on an ailing knee. A homer by light-hitting Dewayne Wise in the seventh provided the only run host Atlanta needed.

Reds 7, Pirates 4: Paul Wilson (10-6) allowed one run and six hits in seven innings to become Cincinnati's second 10-game winner in two nights and the visiting Reds used a five-run first inning to beat Pittsburgh.



Pedro Feliz, top, pumps his fist after hitting a grand slam in the eighth inning to give the San Francisco Giants a 9-5 victory over Los Angeles, cutting the Dodgers' NL West lead to 1½ games. Meanwhile, the Anaheim Angels pulled within two games of Oakland in the AL West by beating the Athletics 5-3. Darin Erstad, bottom, is welcomed back to the dugout after hitting a three-run home run in the fifth inning.

Anaheim cuts Oakland's AL West advantage to two with a week left

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Garrett Anderson hit a tiebreaking double in the eighth inning, Darin Erstad had a three-run homer and the Anaheim Angels beat Oakland 5-3 Saturday to move back within two games of the AL West-leading Athletics.

Anderson greeted Ricardo Rincon with a liner down the right-field line, giving Anaheim a 4-3 lead. Rincon had just replaced Chad Bradford (5-7), who hit Jose Guillen with a pitch leading off the inning.

Alfredo Amezaga came in as a pinch-runner for Guillen and scored easily from first base on Anderson's hit. Chone Figgins' RBI single later in the inning gave Anaheim a two-run edge.

Francisco Rodriguez (4-1) pitched two scoreless innings for the victory and Troy Percival worked the ninth for his 30th save, reaching that figure for the seventh straight season.

Jermaine Dye hit a two-run shot for the Athletics, who won the series opener.

Red Sox 12, Yankees 5: Manny Ramirez doubled in the tiebreaking run during a seven-run eighth inning as host Boston kept alive its hopes of the AL East title.

Jason Varitek and Doug Mirebelle each doubled in two runs in the inning as Boston cut its deficit to 4½ games.

The Red Sox lead the AL wild-card race by six games over Anaheim and Texas.

Pedro Martinez (6-3) got out of trouble in the seventh, then allowed four runs in the eighth. Yankees starter Javier Vazquez allowed five runs in 4½ innings and has won just once in eight starts.

Keith Foulke (5-3) retired Jorge Posada with two on and two outs in the eighth and then finished it in the ninth.

Orioles 3, Tigers 0: Matt Riley (2-1) allowed two hits over six shutout innings for the host Orioles, who won their third straight

with their eighth shutout of the season.

Buddy Groom threw a scoreless seventh, Jason Grimsley pitched a perfect eighth and R.J. Ryan got out of a bases-loaded jam with one out in the ninth for his second save.

Riley didn't allow a hit until Carlos Pena singled with two out in the fifth. Riley struck out four and walked three in gaining his first victory since April 16, when he allowed one hit over seven innings against Toronto.

Jeremy Bonderman (10-13) allowed five hits in seven innings, but was undone by a two-run first inning.

Indians 5, Twins 3: After Jacques Jones hit a two-run double off Bob Howry (4-1) for a 3-2 lead in the eighth, Josh Phelps tied the score with two outs in the bottom half off J.C. Romero (7-3) with his first career pinch homer. Victor Martinez and Ben Broussard then walked, and Coco Crisp hit a two-run double.

Bob Wickman pitched the ninth for his 11th save, dropping visiting Minnesota to 1-4 since the Twins clinched their third straight AL Central title. With the bases loaded and one out, Torii Hunter hit into a game-ending double play.

Devil Rays 6, Blue Jays 5: Geoff Blum hit a winning sacrifice fly in the ninth off Miguel Batista (10-13).

The Rays' 9:15 p.m. curfew imposed as Hurricane Jeanne closed on Florida, both teams came out swinging in a game that lasted just 2 hours, 20 minutes and ended at 8:36 p.m. Sunday's series finale was canceled because of the hurricane.

White Sox 5, Royals 1: Mark Buehrle (15-10) pitched a four-hitter for his third complete game and Jose Valentin and Carlos Lee homered for host Chicago, which has won six of eight.

Suzuki reaches 250, but Texas tops M's

The Associated Press

ARKLINGTON, Texas — Ichiro Suzuki stroked his 250th hit on Saturday, a two-run single in the fourth inning, to pull within seven of George Sisler's major-league record with eight games to play.

Suzuki was 1-for-5 Saturday as Seattle lost 5-4 to the Texas Rangers, who joined Anaheim in pulling within two games of Oakland in the AL West. Anaheim beat Oakland 5-3.

Suzuki tied Rogers Hornsby (1922) and Chuck Klein (1930) for fifth on the season by his list. Al Simmons (1925) is next with 253.

Suzuki had little to say about his milestone hit other than, "That was great." He said he didn't keep the ball on No. 250, but "in the future many things might change."

Michael Young's tying triple spoiled Texas' two-run, game-deciding rally in the seventh.

"We're still hanging," said Brian Jordan, who went 2-for-4 with an RBI. "We need some help from Anaheim tomorrow. We need to handle our business and, hopefully, win our last eight."

Texas has won six of seven and 11 of 15.

Kevin Mench homered in the sixth to cut Texas' deficit to 4-3, and the Rangers went ahead in the seventh against Shigetoshi Hasegawa (4-6). Hank Blalock singled and scored on Young's triple to tie it. After Mark Teixeira received an intentional walk, Mench's sacrifice fly gave the Rangers a 5-4 lead.

R.A. Dickey (6-7) pitched 3½ innings of hitless relief and Francisco Cordero got three outs for his 48th save in 52 chances.

"R.A. was the story tonight," Rangers manager Buck Showalter said. "That was a big bridge. It wasn't just one hitter or one inning. It was pretty impressive."

The Rangers bounced back from Friday night's 8-7 loss to the Mariners with clutch hitting and strong work by the bullpen.

"As tough of a loss as we had last night, it's big to come back like we did," Showalter said.

Edgar Martinez, entering his last week in the majors before retiring, homered in the first inning for the Mariners, who had a three-game winning streak snapped. It was the 309th homer of his career.

Season hit leaders

| Through Sept. 25 | | Year | No. |
|-----------------------|------|------|-----|
| Player | | | |
| 1. George Sisler | 1920 | 251 | |
| 2. Bill Terry | 1930 | 254 | |
| 3. Lenny O'Doul | 1929 | 254 | |
| 4. Al Simmons | 1925 | 253 | |
| 5. Ichiro Suzuki | 2004 | 250 | |
| 6. Mark Teixeira | 2004 | 249 | |
| 7. Chuck Klein | 1930 | 250 | |
| 8. Tony Gwynn | 1994 | 249 | |
| 9. Ty Cobb | 1922 | 246 | |
| 10. Ichiro Suzuki | 2001 | 242 | |
| 11. Babe Herman | 1930 | 241 | |
| 12. Heinie Manush | 1928 | 241 | |
| 13. Charlie Gehringer | 1921 | 240 | |
| 14. Wade Boggs | 1986 | 240 | |

Suzuki by month

| Month | AB | H | Avg. |
|-----------|-----|-----|-------|
| April | 102 | 26 | .255 |
| May | 125 | 50 | .396 |
| June | 128 | 29 | .2274 |
| July | 118 | 51 | .432 |
| August | 121 | 40 | .331 |
| September | 97 | 38 | .392 |
| Totals | 669 | 250 | .374 |



Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki gets his 250th hit, a two-run single in the fourth inning of Saturday's game.

SPORTS



Sexton steps in for injured Rix,
ignites QB debate at Florida State
with fine effort vs. Clemson, Page 25

Life's not easy at the top

No. 1 USC scrambles back from 11 points down, beats Stanford

BY GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

STANFORD, Calif. — USC went to halftime trailing and flailing, down by 11 points and stung by an 82-yard run through the heart of its defense on Stanford's final play.

Reggie Bush was worried the locker room would resemble a funeral. Instead, the top-ranked Trojans seemed thrilled to be in a close game — and they rode a wave of halftime emotion to a 31-28 victory Saturday night.

"I don't think it was anger. It was excitement," said Bush, whose spinning 33-yard punt return set up LenDale White's go-ahead score with 6:15 left. "These are the type of games that we miss, that we love. It's easy to blow a team out. When you win a game like this, you feel so much better. You feel great."

Matt Leinart passed for 308 yards and White scored on a 2-yard run to cap the Trojans' comeback. Steve Smith caught eight passes for 153 yards and a touchdown, and Bush contributed 95 yards rushing and the pivotal punt return to Southern California's 13th straight victory.

But the final result didn't seem nearly as important to the Trojans (4-0) as the thrill of making an impressive comeback. Sure, USC has a roster stuffed with high school all-Americans and NFL prospects, but even the best individual talents need chemistry and camaraderie.

Freshmen exhorted their over-performers counterparts for better efforts. Team leaders spoke up. Coach Pete Carroll made big adjustments to the Trojans' passive zone defense — and everyone got behind a common goal.

"At halftime, this was the first time this team really had a



CONTRA COSTA TIMES/KRT

USC's Kevin Arbet is pulled down by Stanford's Evan Moore (8) and Alex Smith (81) after returning an interception 66 yards to the Stanford 2-yard-line on Saturday in Palo Alto, Calif. Top-ranked Southern Cal earned its 13th straight victory with a 31-28 victory.

chance to bond," defensive end Shaun Cody said. "It was a real special moment. It was the first time you felt everybody together as one. We're not always going to blow teams out. You need these kinds of nights to get a real team together."

The defense blamed itself for

the 28-17 deficit after yielding 291 yards in the first half, so USC changed its timid scheme and gave up just 36 after halftime in both schools' Pac-10 opener.

Leinart's offense did the rest, scoring two touchdowns and holding the ball for 18 minutes.

But until Trent Edwards' final

pass fell incomplete, the nation's second-longest winning streak was in danger across the San Francisco Bay from the site of the defending national champions' most recent defeat, at California last season.

"I think you have to build on a loss, but right now it's going to

take a few days to realize what kind of opportunity we had to make a statement nationally and beat a team like this," said Edwards, 23-for-35 for 183 yards and two touchdowns. "This whole team expected to win that game."

SEE EASY ON PAGE 27



California here they come: Giants, Angels close in on Dodgers, A's in head-to-head West battles

Page 31



Midshipmen haul in another win, improve to 4-0 for first time in 25 years

Page 27



Roy Jones Jr. knocked out again, this time maybe for good Page 24